

THE TIMES

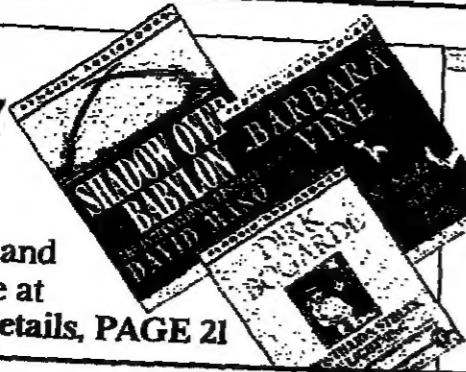
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TUESDAY MARCH 19 1996

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The V-button

How to hand the remote control back to parents PAGES 6, 17



HEALTH

Shape up with Magnus Linklater TB is still a killer Dr Thomas Stuttaford PAGE 14



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Imogen Stubbs has a proposal for a Dunblane memorial PAGE 17



PLAY THE £50,000 GAME

The top 250 team managers PAGES 22, 23

Armed police arrest boy, 14

New gun law to be in force this autumn

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CAROLE MIDGLEY AND RICHARD FORD

TIGHTER controls on the licensing of handguns are expected to be in force within months in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy and fresh concerns yesterday about a runaway schoolboy alleged to have stolen rifles and pistols from a pensioner's home.

Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane massacre is expected to report within three months, and its findings will be taken alongside those of a Home Office inquiry into firearms law to form the basis of new measures to be included in a criminal justice Bill by the autumn.

These are, however, unlikely to include the ban on keeping firearms in private homes that many MPs want.

The Government has made plain that it wants to avoid a kneejerk response and Michael Howard has decided against tabling his own proposals until after Lord Cullen has reported.

But some Home Office sources say that calls for speedier action may prove hard to resist and the pressure intensified yesterday with the arrest in Buckinghamshire of 14-year-old Robert Crawley and a 16-year-old friend after a three-day police hunt. Two rifles were recovered, but two pistols taken from Peter Preston's home in Chalfont St Peter on Friday were still missing.

Teenagers regularly visited Mr Preston, a 66-year-old bachelor who is one of the country's leading marksmen, and they could have seen his collection of five rifles and two

handguns when he laid them on his bed to clean them. The guns were stored in a stainless steel cabinet with a double lock and the keys were in a boiler cupboard near by.

Friday's break-in prompted a wide search by armed police and Robert's school was closed yesterday as a precaution. Plain-clothes police patrolled three other schools at the request of the head teachers. Robert, whose parents were with him as police questioned him after his arrest at a house in High Wycombe yesterday, is now thought likely to face charges.

The case is bound to fuel the anti-gun lobby's concerns about where firearms are kept, but ministers are expected to opt for tougher licensing controls rather than impose a total ban on individual possession of such weapons.

One senior MP said: "If people living in vulnerable circumstances feel they need a gun, they will have one. And provided they get it under

properly licensed circumstances they should have it. A total ban would send the whole trade underground."

Mr Howard is also understood to have strong misgivings about the idea that weapons should be held at gun clubs, fearing that they might be stolen by criminals and terrorists – a view shared by Michael Colvin, the Conservative MP who is president of the Westminster shooting club.

Mr Colvin said there was no case for wholesale reform of a law that had been changed after the Hungerford massacre in 1987. But ministers believe that vetting procedures for issuing firearms certificates can be improved and Labour is likely to back measures that put the onus on applicants to show that they need a gun.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that tougher controls were needed, although he would not support a ban on handguns that would leave Britain unable to compete in international shooting events.

Mr Howard's cautious approach did not, however, satisfy his former Cabinet colleague David Mellor, who attacked the "forces of procrastination" as he renewed his call for fundamental overhauling of the gun law.

The "total inadequacy" of the existing controls and the need for immediate legislation had again been highlighted by events in Buckinghamshire.

As he spoke, Thames Valley

Continued on page 2, col 6



Cullen: swift report



Winnie Mandela, left, who "cannot afford her own lifestyle", and President Mandela at a press conference before the divorce hearing

I was the loneliest man, says Mandela

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON MANDELA told his divorce hearing yesterday that he had been "the loneliest man" during the two years he lived with his wife Winnie after his release from prison.

South Africa's 77-year-old President told the Rand Supreme Court that he was determined to rid himself of a woman whose infidelities had caused him embarrassment.

Making a surprise appearance, Mr Mandela, wearing a sombre grey three-piece suit that matched his grim demeanour, said he regretted having to explain in public why his marriage had broken down irretrievably. Glancing towards the judge he said in a sad voice, at times barely

audible in the hushed courtroom: "Ever since I came back from prison, not once has the defendant ever entered our bedroom whilst I was awake."

The bedroom is where a man and woman discuss the most intimate details and problems. There are so many things I wanted to discuss with her, but she is the type of person who fears confrontation. I was the loneliest man during the period I spent with her."

Seated at a long wooden table his estranged wife, elegantly attired in gold and black, did not look up once during his testimony, but stared into her lap or scribbled.

Earlier, Mr Mandela had spoken of his affection for the wife who bore him two

daughters and with whom he shared many of his happiest days. But he said the marriage now existed "only on paper".

President Mandela, who began divorce proceedings four years after separating, had never previously spoken publicly of his problems.

Recalling how a newspaper editor approached him in 1992 with a letter confirming rumours about his wife's fidelity, he named Dali Mpofu, a young lawyer from the African National Congress, as his wife's lover. He said he had been forced to reveal the details to counter his wife's claim that there were other reasons for the divorce.

Mrs Mandela's lawyers had suggested that there were "somewhat slight tensions" between the couple arising

from her 1991 trial for kidnapping the 14-year-old ANC activist Stompie Sepe, who was murdered after being taken to her house in Soweto.

Ismael Semenya, one of her lawyers, called for a postponement because there had been no mediation as prescribed by customary law. When it came to fidelity, he added, perhaps Mr Mandela was not altogether pure.

But Mr Mandela said he had wanted to end the marriage much earlier, but had stood by his wife because he did not want the world to think they were separating over the Stompie case. He stood by her innocence.

Speaking in stern tones, he said: "If the entire universe persuaded me to reconcile

with the defendant I would not ... I am determined to get rid of this marriage."

The couple were married in 1958, when he was 41 and she was 25. Yesterday, save for a curt handshake, they could not even look each other in the eye.

Mrs Mandela is seeking half of her husband's assets. The Judge ruled that more time should be given on her counter-claim over a financial settlement and that she should be advised of the full extent of the President's assets while the hearings proceed.

Mrs Mandela is known to be heavily in debt. Mr Mandela's affidavit referred to her financial problems, saying: "She cannot afford her own lifestyle."

Going public, page 10

Bill to safeguard building societies

Predators hunting for a building society to boost their corporate expansion plans will be thwarted by legislation to protect societies wishing to retain their mutual status.

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, announced a draft Building Societies Bill to "ring-fence" two societies that are proposing to merge against outside bids. Page 25

Islanders moved before war games

China and Taiwan evacuated residents from small islands where Peking was due to start new land, sea and air exercises. Taipei said it thought bad weather had delayed the manoeuvres, which are designed to influence Saturday's presidential elections in Taiwan. Pages 11, 17

The Times on the Internet <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Yorkshire Water 'thought of evacuating Bradford'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

YORKSHIRE WATER considered evacuating almost a million people from the Bradford area as their tanks threatened to run dry during last summer's drought, an inquiry was told yesterday.

City planners said the company told them that the huge tankering operation might not meet demand. If the reservoirs in the Pennines failed, people would have to be moved, the inquiry into the company's role heard.

Ann Beattie, an emergency planning officer with Bradford City Council, said in a written submission: "At meetings on August 3 and 11 with Yorkshire Water, staff were told that tankering would not help because too many tank-

ers would be needed to have any effect. In the event of the reservoirs running dry, the only possible outcome was that Yorkshire Water would

be looking to the local authorities to evacuate the area."

Peter Bowler, of the pressure group Water Watch, said: "Where did Yorkshire Water think people would go? The entire population of Bradford could not stay with [Yorkshire Water chairman] Trevor Newton's mother-in-law." The quip was a reference to Mr Newton's claim that he was saving water by not bathing, which was shown to be misleading as he was showering at his law firm's home outside the area.

Last night Yorkshire Water denied there were ever any plans to evacuate large areas of Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees and said it was asking Bradford Council to substantiate its remarks.

The Americans cite scientific evidence, some produced by the EU Commission itself, which shows that naturally-produced growth-promoting hormones in meat do no harm to human health.

Tony Baldry, Britain's deputy agriculture minister,

Beef war likely in row over hormones

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE SCENE was set yesterday for a "beef war" over growth hormones pitting America against Europe after European Union ministers overruled British objections and toughened controls on imports.

The decision by farm ministers will ensure that Washington goes ahead with proceedings against the EU at the World Trade Organisation on the grounds that it is illegally blocking imports.

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Tony Baldry, Britain's deputy agriculture minister,

backed the American argument, but all other EU states sided with the Commission argument that approval of hormone use, banned since 1988, would cause a consumer backlash.

Allowing hormones, they said, would damage the industry further when it is already suffering from the scare over BSE, the so-called mad cow disease.

There are to be tighter controls on farmers and slaughter-houses found to be handling hormone-treated beef. The crackdown follows the emergence of an active "hormone mafia" which has used violence against campaigners. A prominent Belgian vet was murdered last year.

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A question of heart attacks and neck pain

Westminster watchers will have noted the birth, at Welsh Questions yesterday, of a new kind of "open question". The open question is the bland preliminary enquiry which conceals the backbencher's real question, his second one. Backbenchers have to do this because they are obliged to give written notice of their first question. That threatens to spoil the fun because it gives the minister time to prepare his answer. So the chair (by custom) allows the backbencher to come back for a second bite at the cherry, catching the minister off guard with a question related to the first, but for which he cannot prepare. The open

question must be so general that the minister cannot guess where it is leading, but it must relate to his responsibilities.

The favourite open question asked of a Prime Minister is whether he will state his engagements for the day. He duly states them. The MP then prefeces his second question with, "In the course of a busy day, will he find time to tell us why..."

To departmental ministers questions cannot be completely open, but almost so. MPs questioning the Transport Secretary can ask when he last travelled by train — leaving scope for any imaginable railway enquiry.

Of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, MPs can first

enquire what are the prospects for the British economy. These opening gambits are rather like asking about the weather: they break the ice, but they are dull.

Until yesterday, Ministers from Wales were in clock for Questions. The first on the order paper was intriguing. Simon Coombs (C. Swindon) was to ask ministers for a statement on progress in reducing the incidence of coronary heart disease in Wales. A junior minister, Rod Richards, replied with a volley of

medical statistics. What, we wondered, would Coombs's supplementary question be?

Mr Coombs asked about last Saturday's rugby match between Wales and France. Was this not a magnificent victory? Would the minister join him in congratulating the Welsh team — and, incidentally, "lending a helping hand to England, too?"

What you ask, was the link with coronary heart disease? Apparently we were to understand that hypertension and heart trouble in Wales will

have been reduced, as a result of the widespread sense of contentment which this sporting victory has brought.

The next backbencher on his feet, Labour's Allan Roger (Rhondda), understood the link perfectly. If the minister wished to achieve further "positive reductions in coronary heart disease" in Cardigan, would he please instruct the leader of the council there to drop his plans for a ban on all housebuilding which was not for the provision of dwellings for those within 25 miles of the town, or those born within its boundaries. Fury at this plan was growing the people of Wales heart attacks, implied Rogers.

Madam Speaker allowed

the

discussion to move to housebuilding in Cardigan. Readers will appreciate that the precedent now lets through a whole new range of goodies to bowl at ministers. "What are the figures for insomnia, and will the Health Secretary make a statement?" — then ask about whatever it is that keeps you awake at night.

The possibilities are legion.

If the Government gives you a

pain in the neck, the head or

the backside, if ministers

drive you to drink, distraction,

or a peptic ulcer; if the Tories

bring you out in spots or a fit of

the screaming abads, tell

your MP and tell him why:

you may supply the Com-

mons's next open question.

"Do not encourage the early use of AZT".

The finding published in *The Lancet* in April 1993, dashed early hopes that AZT was a breakthrough treatment. Wellcome's share price fell sharply. Professor David Warrell, chairman of the trial, said on BBC's *Panorama* the company had put pressure on the researchers to alter their report and had distorted the findings at a press conference.

Fight to contain oil spill

Emergency teams from the National Rivers Authority were fighting last night to contain the spread of hundreds of gallons of oil which spilled into the River Medway near Tonbridge, Kent. Booms were placed across the river in the centre of Tonbridge and three miles further downstream at Paddock Wood. Teams were trying to trace the source of the oil, believed to be from a factory.

New churches planned

The Church of Scotland is planning to build at least seven churches for £500,000 each despite concerns about finance. The Church's Board of National Mission proposes constructing them in new housing areas in Aberdeen, Glasgow and elsewhere. Last year, the Church had to use money from reserves to ease a funding crisis but a spokesman said there was a need for expansion.

'Lord' of Lundy leaves

A chartered accountant who was chosen to become the "lord" of Lundy when his predecessor left after an adulterous affair has resigned after eight months. Tony Blackler, from Launceston, Cornwall, whose instructions were to restore the island's image, cited "personal reasons" and a wish to further his accountancy practice. He intends to return to Launceston.

Sex-case GP suspended

A married doctor who gave drugs to a vulnerable 31-year-old patient before having sex with her during a two-year affair was suspended for 12 months by the General Medical Council. John Razzak, 41, a GP from Guernsey, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct and told that he had come close to being struck off for abusing the trust placed in him.

DIY drug author jailed

A campaigner for the legalisation of cannabis was jailed for 12 months yesterday after writing and publishing a guide on growing the drug at home. Michael Marlow, 51, unemployed, of Newnham, Gloucestershire, was convicted by Worcester Crown Court of inciting others to produce cannabis. Judge Mot told Marlow that his book was a detailed guide to break, rather than change, the law.

Tunnel pipedream

A water company is planning to import up to half a million gallons a day from France through the Channel Tunnel. Supplies here are threatened by drought. The French-owned Folkestone and Dover Water Services company wants to carry out tests in which water would be pumped through the fire-fighting and cooling system mains.

Bruno returns for a rest

Frank Bruno returned to London yesterday apologising for losing his world heavyweight title to Mike Tyson but refusing to say whether he would retire from boxing. Bruno, 34, said: "I just want to go home and spend some time with my family. I want to chill out. Then I will be in a better position to say what I will do." Bruno waits, page 48

World's media leave people of Dunblane to mourn in peace

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND STEPHEN FARRELL

The world's media withdrew from Dunblane yesterday after relatives asked to be left to bury their dead in peace. One reporter and one photographer from the Press Association, the national news agency, covered the first of 17 funerals to be held this week after reaching agreement with police and the families.

A change in mood was evident after the Queen's visit on Sunday, which was felt should mark the end of the public mourning. Yesterday morning, Central Scotland Police dropped their plans to provide access to the funerals for newspapers, television and radio and closed a conference room that had been set up in the city centre. Stirling Royal Infirmary cancelled plans for television crews to film the recovering child victims.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, had appealed to the media, on Sunday night, to "respect the privacy of those who are grieving so intensely. A decision by editors and broadcasters to pull back from Dunblane now would be enormously appreciated by the community and the country."

The BBC withdrew an edition of *Panorama* about the Dunblane shootings last night for fear of offending the local community. Tony Hall, managing director of BBC news and current affairs, said that the corporation did not think it right to show the programme on the day of some of the funerals.

he said. *The Times*, in common with most of the British media, immediately complied.

Chief Inspector Colin Mather, head of the Central Scotland Police press team, explained the reaction his officers had observed: "The Queen's visit was the end of the public process. The feeling is that now is the time for private grief."

By the end of last Wednesday, the day of the massacre, 200 journalists from all over the world had packed into police and local authority press conferences in Dunblane. Huge satellite dishes were quickly erected for journalists to work in the streets of Stirling and Dunblane, which has a population of 7,000. One Norwegian tabloid hired an

aircraft and ran 14 pages in the next day's edition. Mr Mather said: "I appeared on television in Colombia, Canada, the USA, New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland. The Colombian presenter who conducted a telephone interview said: 'We are very sorry for you in Scotland.' Yesterday, Ben Vallance and Robert Purves, who were injured in the shootings, were released from Stirling Royal Infirmary. Another child, Ryan Liddell, is expected to be sent home from hospital in Glasgow today, leaving five children and two teachers as inpatients.

A spokesman for Stirling Royal said: "Mark Mullan is continuing to make good progress. Matthew Birnie was able to get up today for the first time. Amy Hutchinson is making progress although still in traction."

"On Ward 25, Eileen Harrild and Mary Blake, the two teachers, are continuing to make good progress."

At the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill in Glasgow, Annie Adams and Coll Austin were making good progress on a general ward.

Letters, page 17

MP shooting enthusiasts rally to deter legislation

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

SHOOTING enthusiasts in the House of Commons are preparing to counter demands for tighter gun control legislation in the wake of the Dunblane massacre.

Although MPs from both sides of the Commons yesterday denied the existence of any formal gun lobby at Westminster, they said a coalition of target shooters and field sportsmen

would emerge if calls for a ban on handguns gain ground. They warned ministers against formulating ill-thought-out legislation in a "knee-jerk reaction" to Dunblane.

Sir Jerry Wiggin, Tory MP for Weston-super-Mare and chairman of the British Shooting Sports Council, which represents various sports shooting organisations, would meet soon to consider any threat from tighter legislation. Sir Jerry said there was no

situation with great care because there are so many madmen shouting wild things about it and we want to make sure that the Government takes a sensible view," he said.

Last night the council issued a statement expressing its "revulsion" at the killings but added that "until the full facts of the case are revealed it is impossible to form any useful judgment or even identify issues which, with certainty, might be relevant". Sir Jerry said there was no

formal gun lobby at Westminster. "There is just a gun fraternity," he said.

Sir Hector Monro, the former Scottish Office Minister and former president of the National Small-bore Rifle Association, also rejected the idea of a gun lobby.

"An organised gun lobby is an exaggeration," he said. "If legislation comes, there will be various groups of people outside the House who will try to interest us. But we are not

a lobby in an organised sense." Martyn Jones, Labour MP for Clwyd South West and one of the few Opposition members of the Westminster Small-bore Rifle Association, also rejected the idea of a gun lobby.

He added: "The papers are talking about it as if we have a gun lobby like in the States where the National Rifle Association is immensely powerful. We just simply don't have that in the House of Commons. It is absolute rot."

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Tories urge free vote to keep Clarke on board

By PHILIP WEBSTER,
NICHOLAS WOOD
AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

SENIOR Conservatives are trying to head off a Cabinet split over Europe by urging John Major to announce that MPs would be given a free vote if a Tory Cabinet were to decide in the next Parliament that Britain should go into a single currency.

In an attempt to heal the differences between Kenneth Clarke and a handful of colleagues on the one hand and a majority of Cabinet ministers on the other, the Tories are proposing that a referendum would take place only if the Cabinet of the day and Parliament, on a free vote, had backed British entry. However, Cabinet ministers would be bound by collective responsibility to support the decision to which they had put their names.

The compromise is being urged on Mr Major after repeated suggestions that the Chancellor is deeply unhappy about proposals for a referendum, expected to be agreed by the Cabinet over the next two weeks. Some have hinted that he would quit rather than go along with the plan, although his closest friends deny any such intention.

A big backstage effort is proceeding to keep Mr Clarke on board. He is at present on a trip to South Africa, but it is understood that the paper being drawn up by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, on the implications of a referendum will be faxed to him shortly.

Mr Rifkind and senior

Whitehall officials moved yesterday to placate Euro-sceptic Tories by insisting that the

Government would be bound by the outcome of a referendum.

Fears had been sparked by Mr Rifkind's remark on Sunday that the plebiscite might be "advisory". But officials said that the Foreign Secretary had been alluding to a "technical issue... for the sake of completeness". One aide added: "Mr Rifkind thinks that if there is a referendum, it will be a referendum."

Mr Rifkind told MPs it was "entirely incorrect" to interpret his weekend remarks as suggesting that a referendum might be ignored.

He insisted he had only been listing the issues that needed to be addressed before deciding whether to hold a referendum. "That was immediately interpreted in certain quarters as indicating a preference for one form over the other," he said.

"It has been assumed to be constitutionally necessary for the legal status of a referendum to be advisory because that would otherwise conflict

with the sovereignty of Parliament, but governments have always indicated in advance that they would in practice accept the outcome of the referendum. It has been the practice in all previous referendums."

Mr Major has yet to make a final decision but there were indications yesterday that he will insist shortly that all Cabinet ministers would have to toe the majority line on a single currency.

That would be welcomed by Mr Clarke and his supporters, as would the proposal that the referendum could only be held after an unfeated decision by MPs to back entry. Mr Clarke and other Cabinet ministers have been opposed to any procedure that would undermine the sovereignty of Parliament. While a referendum result would prove decisive, the Clarke camp believes that the public would fall in line behind Cabinet and Parliamentary assent to a single currency.

The threat to Tory party unity posed by the euro was highlighted yesterday by John Redwood, the former Cabinet minister. He said on BBC Radio that MPs had not been elected to Parliament to "give the country away".

Later, in a speech to foreign exchange dealers, Mr Redwood claimed that the driving force behind economic and monetary union was a "wish to create a country called Europe, whatever the price".

But the costs would be high in terms of lost jobs and economic misery. He estimated that taxes would have to go up by 8p in the pound to help meet a bill for another £10 billion in Britain's contribution to the EU budget.

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• 'Man of vision' fiddled school fees

Gambling debts led to downfall of navy commander

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A ROYAL NAVY commander described as a natural leader and a man of vision was addicted to gambling and stole money to meet debts of £20,000, a court martial was told yesterday.

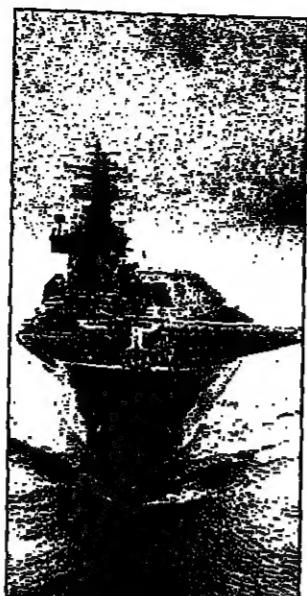
Commander Graham Woodworth, 38, who served as meteorological officer on the aircraft carrier *HMS Ark Royal*, admitted eight charges, including stealing £2,655 by claiming lodging allowance for a house in Muswell Hill in north London when he was commuting to the Ministry of Defence each day from his married quarters in Portsmouth.

He also admitted four charges of misappropriation, involving more than £12,000 paid by the MoD over three years towards his children's fees at Benbridge School on the Isle of Wight and Ardingly College in Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

Although he was entitled to a boarding school allowance, Woodworth used the cash to help to pay off his debts. He also broke one of the Royal Navy's rules by taking in a lodger at his married quarters to bring in extra cash.

The court martial at *HMS Nelson* in Portsmouth was told that Woodworth's financial downfall was due to an obsession with gambling. Lieutenant Commander John Flanagan, for the prosecution, told the court martial that investigators had uncovered a series of financial irregularities.

In an interview, Woodworth admitted claiming a lodging allowance for an address in Muswell Hill. By signing the form he was saying that he would normally spend four nights a week at the address. Commander Flanagan said: "He left the house in May 1995 but continued claiming lodging allowance until August. He did not report that and continued to travel daily from his married quarters in Ports-



Ark Royal, in which Woodworth served

mouth." School fees, he said, were paid for his children, Stuart and Angela, both 13, and Dale, 11. The money was paid on the condition he handed it to the schools within two months of the beginning of term. But Woodworth often delayed payment for several months.

Captain Simon Goodall, president of the panel, said: "In considering sentence the court has taken into account your pleas of guilty and all that has been said so ably on your behalf. We are acutely aware of the effect of this sentence on your family but there is no escaping the fact you are the architect of your own downfall."

"You have woven a web of deceit which has entangled your family and close friends. The root cause was your addiction to gambling but this does not change the stark fact you have been dishonest and the service depends on mutual honesty and trust. You have betrayed that trust. We therefore consider these offences are so serious that we have no alternative but to impose an immediate custodial sentence and dismissal from the service."

Woodworth was introduced to the "mechanics" of gambling as a student at Manchester University when he worked part-time in a bookmaker's. Now he would acknowledge he was a compulsive gambler. He admitted the problem to his wife in 1993 and also to the Navy. "He has been going to Gamblers' Anonymous since autumn 1995," Mr Albuery said.

Who'll put the fizz into final?

By JOHN GOODBOY
AND ALAN MITCHELL

TWO soft-drink companies are at odds over whose product the players in the League Cup final will be seen consuming by a television audience expected to top ten million.

Aston Villa and Leeds United, the finalists in the competition sponsored by Coca-Cola, both use Lucozade Sport as their official drink. They are under pressure not to display it prominently on Sunday at Wembley because of the stadium's contract with Coca-Cola.

Martin Corrie, a Wembley spokesman, said: "We have proposed a compromise to the clubs. We have asked that Lucozade is not prominently displayed and we have even offered to provide plain, unmarked bottles. Now the ball is in their court."

Ian Muir, Coca-Cola's manager of external affairs, said yesterday: "Coca-Cola will be made available to both teams. Whether they choose to drink it is up to them. We had the same contractual arrangements last year and there was no problem. We hope there will be no problem this year."

SmithKline Beecham, manufacturers of Lucozade Sport, said it would "continue to supply" the two finalists. The Football League said its agreement with Coca-Cola for the tournament specifically excluded sports drinks.

Terrier savages horse ridden by girl of 15

By ADAM FRESCO AND PETER FOSTER

A HORSE being ridden by a 15-year-old girl was dragged down and savaged by a dog in an hour-long attack which left it badly injured and unable to race again.

The 12-year-old gelding, a cross-country eventer called Robert III, was being ridden by Jessica Long on the beach at Benbridge, Isle of Wight, in preparation for the island's Grand National this weekend when the Staffordshire bull-terrier escaped from its owner and attacked.

Miss Long was forced to dismount and tried to beat off the dog, but to no avail. She was said to be shocked by the attack. Vets banned for three hours to save the animal.

Harry Van Praagh, the

owner and trainer of the 16-hand horse and a former National Hunt jockey in treland and trainer at Lambourn, said the dog almost ripped its left front leg to shreds. The horse was pulled to the ground before being chased to its stable.

"It was a horrific sustained attack which terrified both the horse and its rider. She was forced to get off the horse because it was so frantic and tried to beat the dog off, but it wouldn't let go."

The dog then continued to bite and rip at the distraught horse, chasing it back to the stables a mile away. It even managed to climb up in the stables and jump on the horse's back. It was like the

law of the jungle. I have never seen anything like it."

Eventually the horse managed to knock the dog off and kicked it over, almost knocking it senseless, but the dog got up, shook itself and ran off. It was later destroyed.

"I have never seen a horse in such a state, it was sweating and bleeding profusely and was in a terrified state by the time I had managed to lock it away from this dog," Mr Van Praagh added.

"At the moment it is too early to say if or how well he will recover. It was a horrific experience and he is clearly badly hurt mentally as well as physically."

"Jessica is shell-shocked by it all. I'm just thankful there were people in the yard when the horse was chased back to help us deal with the situation."

He bought Robert III a few months ago and had him at stables on the island for only six weeks. "Now he won't race again," he said. "It's very sad when you consider what a good cross-country horse he was."

A police spokesman said statements had been taken over the incident and officers were still investigating what had happened. He confirmed that the dog had been destroyed and that police were appealing for independent witnesses to the incident.



Jessica Long and Harry Van Praagh with Robert III

Japanese storm in English cuppa

By EMMA WILKINS

JAPANESE tea-drinkers are developing an unlikely passion for the English cuppa with a digestive biscuit. Customers at 30 supermarkets in Tokyo and Osaka are paying up to three times the British retail price for a chainstore's brand of Earl Grey tea, English breakfast tea and digestives.

The tea-time treats, which are being endorsed by David Wright, the British Ambassador in Tokyo, have been on sale for four weeks in Japan, where the tea ceremony is one of the country's most ancient traditions.

Hiroshi Kato, a Japanese businessman who lives in England, said his countrymen were passionate about

English tea rituals. "There is a big debate in Japan over whether you should put cream or jam first on scones — it is quite a serious subject," he said.

The question of whether milk or tea should be poured first was equally problematic, Mr Kato said. "Japanese tea is drunk on its own. But when they are drinking English tea, Japanese people like to use milk or sometimes lemon. I prefer Lapsang Souchong."

The fondness for tea and biscuits was part of a drift towards Western food, including burgers, pizzas and dairy products, Mr Kato said. "Japanese people are becoming increasingly Westernised in their diet, which includes the fast foods but also cheese,

cream and yoghurt. My family in Japan loves biscuits — especially shortbread — and I always take some back with me when I visit."

The tea-time items are being sold by Waitrose, which negotiated a deal with the Daimaru department-store group of Japan in December. The 49 own-brand lines include dry spaghetti, tinned fruit and jam. A Waitrose spokesman said the English tea-time items appeared to be the most popular.

Last year the United Kingdom exported £107 million-worth of food to Japan — a 45 per cent increase on the previous year. Food From Britain, a partly government-funded marketing organisation, opened an office in Tokyo last October.



Antiquities in the UK: Johnny Rotten and the veteran Pistols yesterday. "There's nothing wrong with growing old," declared Rotten

Rotten fires up Pistols for one last blast

By JOE JOSEPH

WATCHING the surviving members of the Sex Pistols, who swore and spat and sometimes even sang their way to punk glory in the 1970s, regroup in London yesterday gave you a new respect for Frank Sinatra and Val Doonican and the art of ageing gracefully.

Led by a beer-bellied, 40-year-old Johnny Rotten, now a rich expatriate living amid the anarchy of frontline Beverly Hills, the four men chose the 100 Club in Oxford Street as the place to announce a world tour this summer.

Why? Because the 100 Club was where they first made waves in 1976. Trying to recapture their two-fingered rebelliousness, the Sex Pistols cursed and belched at a media troupe that has grown old with them, but which has long since traded in tartan bondage straps for mortgages and wedding rings and push-chairs in the hall. As Anar-

chy in the UK and God Save the Queen screeched over the loudspeakers, the 300 or so journalists, music industry executives and photographers who had gathered to mark the Sex Pistols' rebirth quivered with all the heady rebelliousness of thermal underwear.

"This is sad, isn't it," one journalist shouted out as the band, looking like pantomime dames wheeled out in their dottage, boasted about how they would just be replaying their antique hits unrehearsed. "It's sad that an arsehole like you doesn't appreciate the effort we've gone to," Rotten, né Lydon, snarled back, genuinely angry. Then he belched.

May be anxious that reviving the spirit of punk might be as tough as reviving Sid Vicious — the one-time Sex Pistols' cured and belched at a media troupe that has grown old with them, but which has long since traded in tartan bondage straps for mortgages and wedding rings and push-chairs in the hall. As Anar-



The way they were: the Sex Pistols in 1976

girlfriend Nancy Spungen — the organisers showed us films of the band in their prime and videos of that television interview with Bill Grundy.

"Isn't this a complete about-face of everything you've stood for?" "Bollocks!" hissed Rotten. "We invented punk, we make the rules."

But hadn't the Sex Pistols done the decent thing and disbanded when they had their day? "I've changed my mind," Rotten explained. "Money is part of it. That does not make me a hypocrite."

He belched again. "People have lived off us. We haven't had a penny, or respect, from

it. There's nothing wrong with growing old. I've matured gracefully," he added, apparently in earnest. "We love our beer bellies."

They play their first date in Finland on June 21, and will appear at Finsbury Park in London on June 23. Glasgow and Belfast are the only other UK fixtures so far in a 19-date European tour. Six weeks in America will be followed by trips to Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

But Rotten is not inviting anyone to hold their breath. "To be quite frank, it's highly likely that we will beat the crap out of each other in the first three seconds."

"Do you think you've grown up?" someone asked. "No, I've grown wide," Rotten replied.

"What do the Sex Pistols stand for?"

"Money."

"How far can you spit these days?"

"You wanna test it?"

Er, no thanks.

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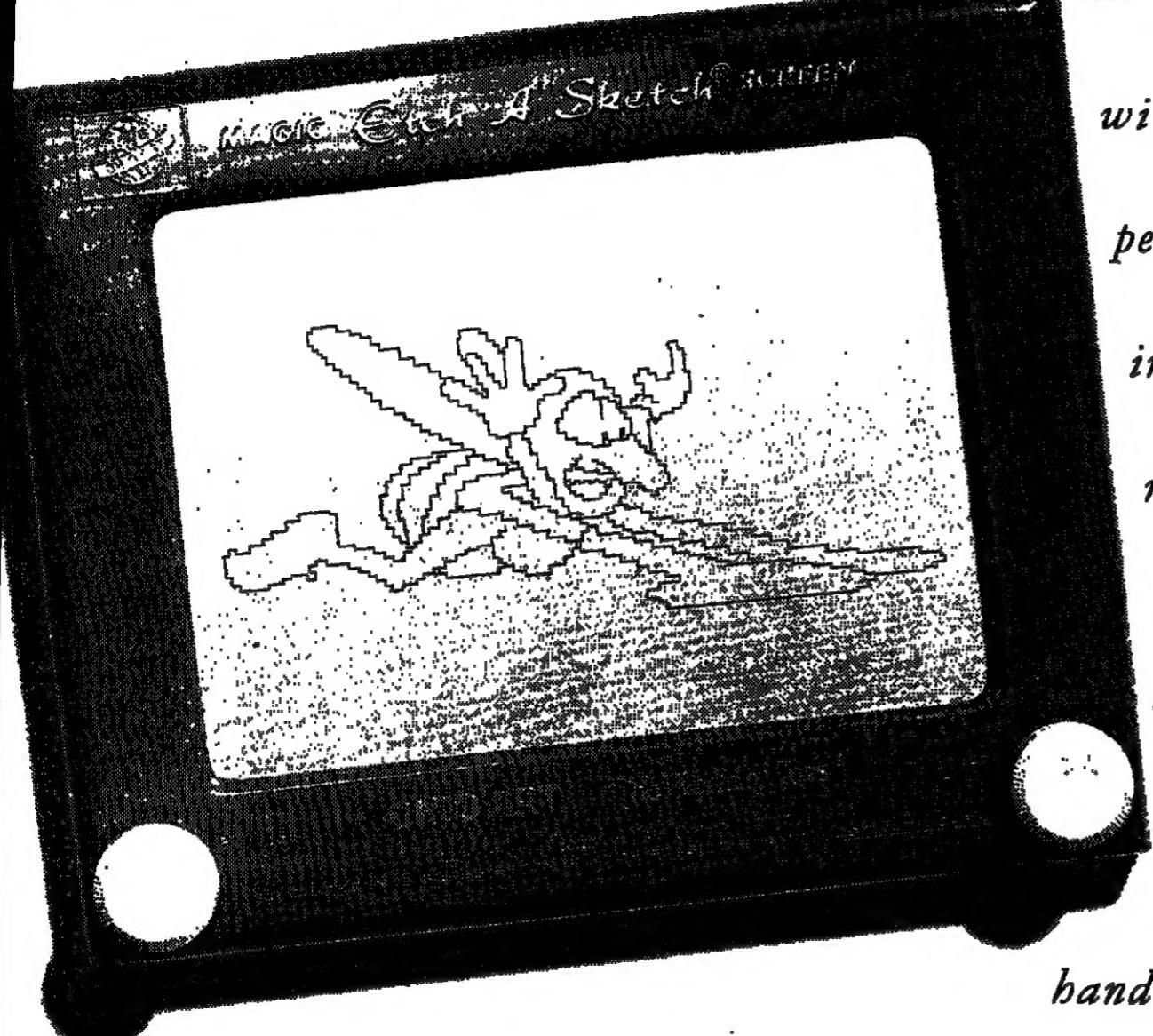
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One in seven
teachers in
Manchester has been assault-
ed by pupils during the past
year, according to a trade
union survey. In the other
secondary schools, a quarter
of teachers have felt threatened
by verbal abuse.

The findings have pro-
duced a uniform in the annual

Frederick acted alone, appeal judges are told West 'was convicted on non-existent evidence'

By RICHARD DUKE

ROSEMARY WEST was convicted as a serial killer on "tenous and non-existent" evidence, when the facts suggested that her husband Frederick was solely responsible, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Rosemary West, 42, was also the victim of sensational media reporting, which meant she was incapable of getting a fair trial on ten charges of murder, it was said. Her lawyers are seeking leave to appeal against her convictions at Winchester Crown Court last November on the ground that they are unsafe and unsatisfactory.

West, 42, exercised her right not to appear in court yesterday. She is currently in Durham jail after her convictions last November at Winchester Crown Court.

Richard Ferguson, QC, for West, said there had been evidence at her trial that her husband had begun a series of rapes, assaults and abductions of young women when his wife was only six years old. "That suggestion, that Fred West on the evidence could well have been the sole perpetrator of the ten murders, is the hook upon which the defence hangs their objections."

The murders of which Mrs West was convicted "could have been done by Frederick West on his own without any knowing participation by his

son" on him to give adequate directions to the jury on how it should approach that evidence, Mr Ferguson told Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Mitchell and Mr Justice Newland.

Mr Ferguson said pre-trial newspaper reports, including a claim that West stood to receive up to £10 million from the story of her life with her husband, had made it impossible for her to have a fair trial.

"The House of Horror epithet had firmly attached itself to coverage of the trial," he said. There were "offensive, highly prejudicial" accounts in the media, some from those who were to be witnesses at the trial, which described Rosemary West as a nymphomaniac or a prostitute.

One article, by a woman later to give evidence, was headed "Kinky Sex at House of Horror" and described three-in-a-bed sex sessions. "It was full of lurid detail, most of it directed towards Rosemary West and not the husband," Mr Ferguson said.

It was a cause for concern, not only to the defence and trial judge but to the Crown, that witnesses or potential witnesses entered into agreements with the media to provide stories for money, he said.

If the court grants leave to appeal, that appeal would follow immediately before the three judges. The hearing continues today.



nobody has been nasty towards her at all."

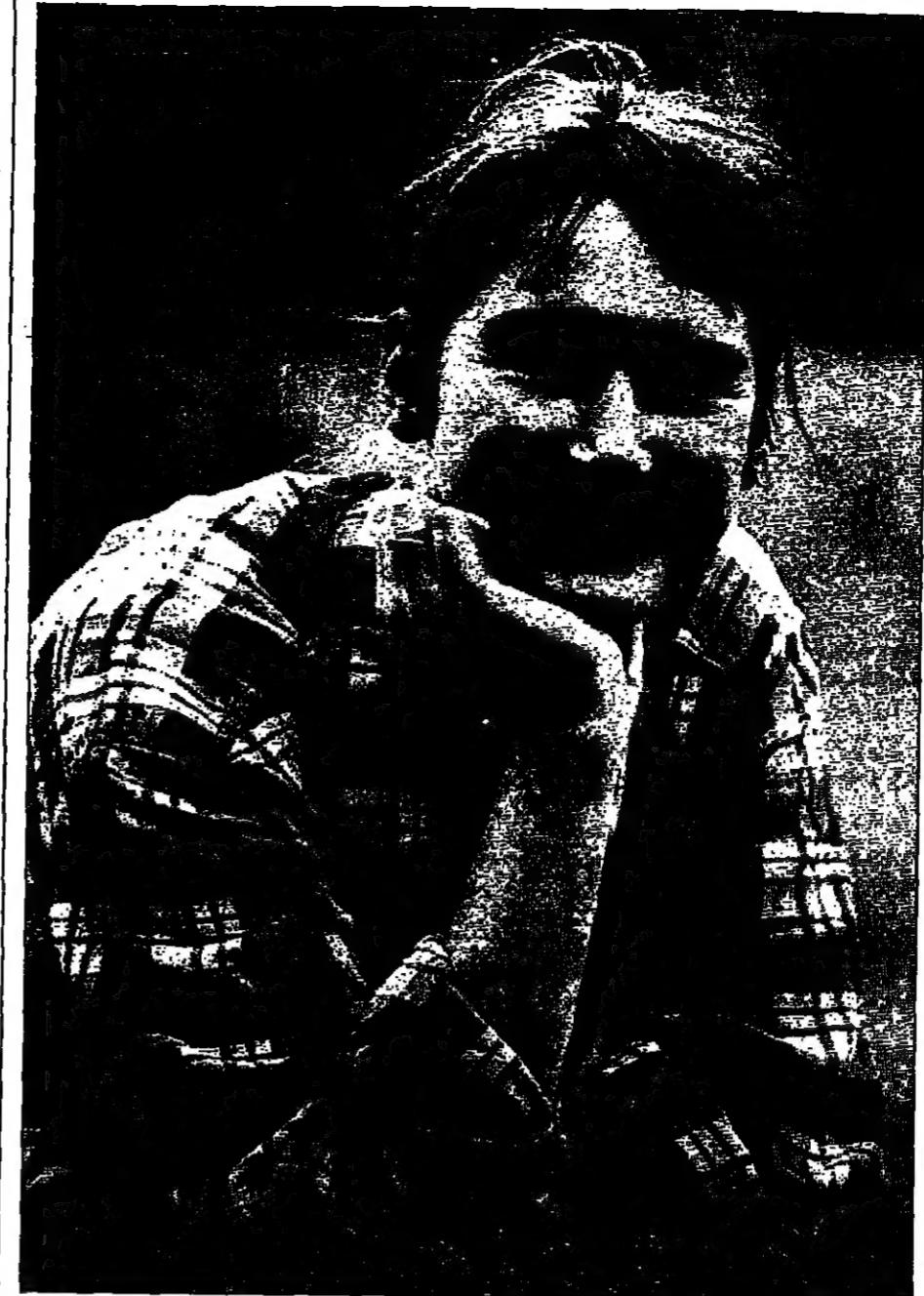
Mr West said his mother was reading the classics, attending seminars and working 40 hours a week making toys.

wife. Other than the sheer horror of the discovery of the remains of the victims, in this case the most striking feature was the dearth of evidence to connect Rosemary West to these crimes."

West, a mother of eight, was convicted of luring seven women back to her home at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, where they were then sexually abused and murdered before being buried in the cellar. Three other charges related to the murder of her daughter Heather, 16, stepdaughter Charmaine, 8, and a lodger, Shirley Robinson. Mr Ferguson

argued that the Crown should not have been allowed to present so-called "similar fact" evidence about Mrs West's sexual proclivities — including testimony from three women about sadomasochism and bondage and "evidence of her lifestyle and rather lax conduct sexually".

It was accepted at the trial that this evidence had no relevance to three of the murder counts. Yet Mr Justice Mantell refused to sever the trial on those charges from the other seven. The judge, having admitted the evidence, failed to discharge the "heavy bur-



Kate Thomson will share with a man the role of the Devil in the Mystery Plays

Female God faces Satan of two halves

THE choice of a woman to play God in the York Mystery Plays led the city's archdeacon to comment that it was "politically correctness gone mad". Now the director has cast a woman as the Devil, albeit with a male counterpart.

Kate Thomson, a bookkeeper, and Dave Parkinson, a multimedia consultant, will share satanic duties at the Theatre Royal in June.

John Doyle, who last month cast 63-year-old Ruth Ford as God, said a Satan of both sexes was right for the play. "I'm not saying God is a woman, but God is being played by a woman, and I'm not saying Satan is a man or a woman, only that it's being played by a man and a woman because it's being done in this production."

The two Satans are the final roles to be announced for the plays, which date back to medieval times and were revived in 1951. They are performed every four years. Originally there were 48 plays performed in wagons in the streets of York, but they have been edited and rewritten into a three-hour version for the stage.

Ms Thomson's role is very different from her last appearance four years ago, when she played the Virgin Mary, a part previously filled by Dame Judi Dench and Mary Ure.

Classes for parents help children too

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

FAMILY reading classes were hailed yesterday as an answer to Britain's growing literacy problems. Researchers examining four Government-sponsored projects said the progress made by parents and children learning together constituted "one of the most successful interventions we have ever encountered".

Within six months, half of those expected to struggle at school had ceased to cause concern. More than 360 parents in poor areas of Cardiff, Norfolk, Liverpool and North Tyneside attended intensive 12-week courses with children aged between three and six. Both parents and children had above-average vocabulary and reading skills.

By the end of the courses, the parents had improved their reading scores by 5 per cent and their writing by 10 per cent. Twelve weeks later, barely more than a third of the children were considered likely to be held back by poor reading, compared with two thirds at the start.

The concept, imported from the United States, was adapted by the Basic Skills Agency with £3 million of government money. At a conference in London to discuss the results of the two-year experiment, Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, indicated her support for an expanded scheme. Mrs Shepherd said she could give

no immediate commitment to increase Government funding for family literacy, but added that she was "hugely enthusiastic" about the scheme. "If this is the way to break through the cycle of deprivation and other problems, it has to be taken very seriously."

One in six adults is a poor reader, and ministers have launched a series of initiatives to improve the teaching of basic skills. Mrs Shepherd said family initiatives would complement the growth of pre-school education next year.

Academics evaluating the four projects found that the costs compared favourably with other literacy schemes. Dr Greg Brooks, of the National Foundation for Educational Research, said the pilot

classes took place in schools and adult education centres, mainly attracting mothers. Many parents went on to further studies on their own behalf, and felt more able to help their children at home and later at school.

The approach has been taken up by large firms such as Ford, where the predominantly male workforce has increased the number of fathers taking part. Sue Southwood, who runs classes at the company's Dagenham plant, said that many of the men felt uncomfortable in their children's schools and preferred a work-based course.

Alan Wells, the agency's director, said most of the parents attending classes were anxious to help their children to read but lacked the skills and confidence. The project would not solve Britain's literacy problems on its own but it could make a significant contribution.

When BBC television programme advertised the agency's information pack on family literacy, more than 300,000 people responded, twice the expected number. Mr Wells said: "Family literacy works. It reaches children who might otherwise fail. It starts early, when there's most impact, and it lasts."

Shepard: enthusiastic about reading project

Yesterdays, Hazel Spence-Young, 48, a teacher in Coventry, will describe today, as part of a campaign against classroom violence, how a nine-year-old boy hit her on the chin while she was trying to persuade him to rejoin a lesson. She later accepted £8,500 damages.

One in seven teachers assaulted

ONE in seven teachers in Manchester has been assaulted by pupils during the past year, according to a trade union survey. In the city's secondary schools, a quarter of teachers have felt threatened by verbal abuse.

The findings have prompted a motion to the annual

conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers next month, calling for legislation to force schools to invest in "adequate and appropriate safety and surveillance systems to protect staff and deter intruders".

The number of assaults on teachers has risen consistently

and accepted £8,500 damages.

Izzard woos young voters

THE comedian Eddie Izzard has joined the Rock the Vote campaign, designed to encourage 18 to 24-year-olds to go to the polls at the next general election.

Izzard will host a fund-raising show, starring Steve Coogan, at the Shepherd's Bush Empire in London on April 10. Other performers appearing around the country in the campaign are Harry Hill, Mark Lamarr, Donna McPhail and Gayle Tuesday. The non-partisan group was launched last month.

Correction

The top 100 businesses started with the help of the Prince's Trust report, March 12, have an annual turnover of £50 million.

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Among the actors protesting at the National Theatre yesterday over the possible loss of benefit were, left to right, Ann Mitchell, Saskia Wickham, Susannah York, Tim Pigott-Smith, Charlotte Cornwell and Samantha Bond.

Stars speak out against loss of dole for 'resting' colleagues

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SUSANNAH YORK and Nigel Hawthrone were among leading actors who protested yesterday at government plans to deprive the profession of unemployment benefit when 'resting'.

They argue that if actors are prevented from claiming benefit

between roles, many talented performers could be forced out of the business. They say that actors need all the support they can get to survive in a profession in which 25 per cent of the 42,000 Equity members did not work last year, and only 12 per cent were employed for more than 40 weeks.

Equity has learnt that the Department of Social Security is

proposing to prevent actors from paying the higher National Insurance contributions that entitle them to unemployment benefit.

Ms York said: "For actors, unemployment benefit, statutory sick pay, maternity pay and industrial injuries benefit are not luxury benefits, they are lifelines which fill in the inevitable gaps in employment which occur during

the ups and downs of working life." She said that almost every actor suffered unemployment at some stage and she was no exception.

Mr Hawthrone recalled that long before he found international success he endured years of humiliation standing in line to collect his dole money. "I often see stars, well-known faces. It was

known as The Club. People would say, 'See you at The Club.'"

Referring to a scheme, beginning in October, for out-of-work actors to retrain on JobCentre Restart programmes as gardeners and bricklayers, Mr Hawthrone said: "There are all sorts of schemes to push them down mines and do work in the daytime. But actors have to remain

available so that they can attend meetings and auditions. Otherwise, the work doesn't come."

Tim Pigott-Smith, who is appearing in *Job Stuart* at the National Theatre in London, where the protest was centred, commented: "It is a nightmare to be entitled to non-means-tested benefits when they are out of work. But the Government could strip them of their right."

No one from the DSS was available to comment.

Martin Brown, a spokesman for Equity, said: "The majority of actors, singers and dancers currently pay higher National Insurance contributions for the right to be entitled to non-means-tested benefits when they are out of work. But the Government could strip them of their right."

No one from the DSS was available to comment.

Stowaway invaders threaten wildlife

By NICK NUTTALL

ALIEN species, including a Chinese crab and a Japanese worm, are threatening wildlife around Britain's coasts after being dumped by ships, a government report has found.

The aliens, stowaways in the ballast of tankers and bulk carriers, are being linked with diseases harmful to shellfish and humans. Others are multiplying in harbours and along shorelines, altering the delicate natural balance and ousting native species by taking over their food and breeding grounds. The Japanese worm is being blamed for fouling boats and harbour installations in places including Southampton Water.

The scale of the invasion has been chronicled by Dr Clare Eno of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the Government's wildlife adviser. Of 55 alien species recorded, 30 are estimated to have been brought to Britain by shipping. Most have arrived since the 1970s, after the increase in supertankers and bulk carriers.

The invaders include the Chinese mitten crab, a native of eastern Asia which arrived in 1935, a coastal cord grass from America which has become a costly weed after crossing with a native grass, and a giant, volcano-shaped barnacle that can strip the paint from supertankers.

Others include species of phytoplankton that form toxic blooms around the coast and suffocate fish and poison shellfish. They have been traced to the Indian and Pacific oceans and the China seas.

A link between outbreaks of cholera and the movement of ships has increased concern.

Bioterrorism, which can make shellfish a health risk, has also recently been detected in ballast water.

The International Maritime Organisation committee charged with environmental protection will meet in London in July. A spokesman said yesterday that cracking down on ballast-dumping was high on the agenda. "We are looking at ways of making the voluntary rules mandatory."

Bottomley orders tests on TV clean-up chip

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AN INVESTIGATION into proposals to fit all new television sets with electronic scramblers to block violent or sexually explicit programmes has been ordered by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary.

She gave a warning, however, that the "V-chip" would not excuse parents from controlling their children's viewing. Parents needed to be reminded of their responsibilities, she said. "The off-button is always at their disposal. If the V-chip can help, then I would welcome it."

In the wake of the Dunblane shootings, calls have increased for Britain to follow the lead of the United States where President Clinton last month ordered that all new televisions be fitted with the chip from 1998. The European Parliament has endorsed the chip in principle.

The V-chip is a computer chip fitted into the television set circuitry. It picks up signals broadcast with each programme, carrying a classification. Programmes might be classified on a scale of one to five, with one representing the "safest" programmes and five the most sexually explicit and

violent. Parents can programme their television sets to block all shows classified above a certain level. When a programme exceeding that level is transmitted, the signal is scrambled. The V-chip control would be operated by a switch on the television remote control handset and would probably be activated by a four-digit code known only to the viewer.

David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP for Mossley Hill, is to put down an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill if Mrs Bottomley fails to legislate. He claims to have support from MPs from all parties. "I think that that will put pressure on broadcasters to produce less violent programmes."

Dr Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, said yesterday, however, that there had been insufficient debate on the V-chip: "No one must believe that the V-chip provides either a quick or comprehensive solution to the controversial issues of standards in broadcasting, for example video rentals."

The V-chip will be discussed at a meeting hosted by the Department of National Heritage next Tuesday attended by

advertisers, broadcasters, manufacturers, regulators and viewers.

Consumer groups have claimed that the V-chip is unworkable. Mary Whitehouse, founder of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, described it as "a complete cop-out". Mrs Whitehouse said: "The V-chip will undermine the existing system of controls, which require broadcasters not to screen anything that might offend against taste or decency. It will simply give broadcasters more licence — they will say, 'The V-

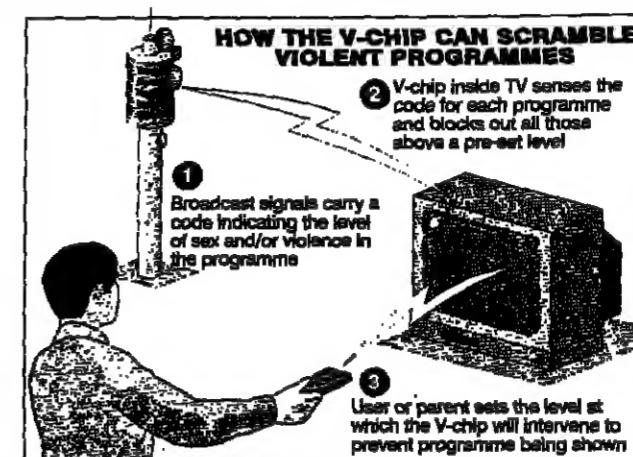
chip is there, so we can put out anything we like.'"

Jocelyn Hay, of the Voice of the Viewer and Listener group, said politicians would be disappointed if they expected the V-chip to provide a panacea for society's ills. More education about the use of television was needed. "Parents should watch television with their children and discuss with them what is suitable."

Broadcasters are also cautious. Will Wyant, managing director of BBC Television, said that the V-chip would make parents share the responsibility for monitoring their children's viewing. But he added: "There is a danger that some broadcasters may use the 'protection' of the V-chip to transmit even stronger material."

Hugh Peltor, director of the British Radio and Electronic Equipment Manufacturers Association, said that the American V-chip system could not work in this country because it uses a part of the television spectrum which is fully utilised by Teletext and Cefax. "We have still to find a way of making it work in Britain and throughout the whole of Europe," he said.

Leading article, page 17



Sexy and serious items may be lost together

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE V-chip, a Canadian invention promoted as a panacea for the ill-effects of television, has been endorsed by the White House, Congress and many American parents.

In Canada, the V-chip and its accompanying ratings system is being field-tested in 150 homes, including that of Sheila Cotts, the Heritage Minister.

The ratings for violence run from one — comedic violence — to five — extreme brutality. The system is designed to let parents be their own family's television watchdog. But the experiments have proved that broadcasters have had to make difficult judgments about elements of

each programme. The list of what needs to be rated is as long as the night's viewing.

Each individual must determine what is objectionable. Television talk shows, for example, which are attractive to teenagers but not to their parents, are invariably rated zero for violence.

Often, though, they are given a level one rating for language and sex.

These shows are generally recommended for 16 and over and so the best hope for a parent is to set the chip at a level which would cut out adult and parental guidance material.

The Ministry of Agriculture said the method of calculating the fleet's total tonnage had been changed since 1986 and that Signora Bonino had not been comparing like with like. "The figure of 116,000 tonnes excluded boats under ten metres in length, boats that were commercially inactive and boats from the Channel Islands, whereas all these are included in the latest figures," a ministry spokesman said.

If these categories of boats are included, the figure for 1986 becomes 206,000 tonnes, which is the same as the current level. We do not know how the commissioner arrived at the current figure of 235,000 tonnes, which we reject."

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, welcomed an offer by Signora Bonino to discuss ways of lessening the problem of "quota hoppers" — foreign-owned (mainly Spanish) vessels which register in Britain to claim a share of the fish catch allocated to the British fleet.

Signora Bonino said: "I cannot ban quota hoppers but it is my strong belief that there is room for reducing their impact provided any action that is taken is non-discriminatory."

Monsters oust Trocadero's Edwardian ghosts

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Trocadero, which once symbolised the glamour and naughtiness of Victorian and Edwardian London society, is to be reborn as the world's largest "futuristic" theme project.

From August the long-vanished sounds of string orchestras playing Strauss and Lehár, and of music-hall artists belting out slightly risqué invitations to dinner-jacketed adventurers, will be replaced by the technological magic of 21st-century Japan.

Where waltzes once floated among the potted palms, on the corner of Piccadilly and Shaftesbury Avenue, their great-grandchildren will be able to enjoy virtual reality

rides through outer space and the ocean depths, encountering the Beast in Darkness and the Mad Bomber to a bombardment of sounds, sights and smells.

The joint venture of Trocadero plc and Sega Enterprises of Japan will cost £45 million and, at 10,000 sq ft, will occupy more space than the Albert Hall. It is expected to attract 1.75 million visitors, create 160 jobs in its first year, give a long-overdue facelift to a famous corner of the West End and to boost tourism. The scheme was welcomed yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, and by the British Tourist Authority.

In the early 18th century the site was owned by Eton Col-

lege and the Mercers Company, and was sold to a tailor in about 1612. The name Piccadilly comes from part of a name of a garment.

In 1623 the land was sold to a colonel who built houses and shops and during the late 18th and early 19th centuries the buildings housed a circus, a theatre and exhibitions.

In 1849 Robert Bignell opened a casino and nightclub known as the Argyll Rooms. He was forced to close them in 1878 because they had acquired a dubious reputation, but built the Trocadero Palace, a music hall where the entertainers included Marie Lloyd, Dan Leno and Charles Chaplin senior.

In 1895 the main building was converted into a restaur-

ant by J. Lyons & Co, but the Trocadero was a more upmarket establishment where gargantuan lunches were served and where families gathered for Christmas

treats. In the evenings more sophisticated entertainment was offered in the form of cabarets devised by the impresario Sir Charles Cochran. From then on it was largely

downhill. The elegant restaurant with its black-tied patrons gave way to a bowling alley, shops and cafés, and it was not until 1984 that the complex reverted to single

Electricity Supply Nominees, a pension fund, opened a shopping development but three years later sold it to Brent Walker, the property group which subsequently went into receivership. Two years ago the site and the adjoining London Pavilion were acquired by the Burford Group.

The new theme project will occupy the original Trocadero and three adjoining buildings, spread over seven floors, which in recent years consisted mainly of empty offices.

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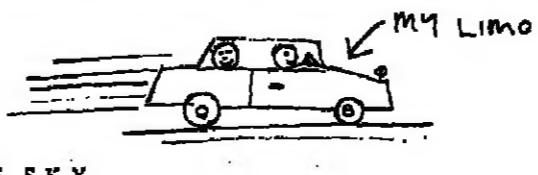
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Mergers aim to improve accuracy

Revised test targets may close cervical smear laboratories

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

UP TO one in five cervical smear laboratories faces closure or merger under measures to improve the accuracy of the screening programme. Targets announced yesterday by Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, set a minimum number of smears to be processed by each laboratory to ensure that screeners have sufficient expertise to detect abnormalities.

The targets, which also cover the proportion of women screened and the speed of results, are designed to restore confidence in the service which has been dented by a series of scandals in which smears have been wrongly taken or misdiagnosed. Last month Kent and Canterbury Hospital said that it was re-examining 70,000 smears taken over five years because of fears that some abnormalities had been missed.

Figures released by the Health Department last month showed a five-fold variation in the proportion of smears judged abnormal in different areas. In Huntingdon 10.9 per cent of smears were rated abnormal, compared with 1.8 per cent in Huntingdon.

The range is too wide to be accounted for by variations in the incidence of the disease and means that some women at risk of cancer are being



Calman: wants to cut regional test variations

missed while others are being needlessly worried. Laboratories have been told they should expect to find 4 to 7 per cent of smears with borderline or mild abnormalities and 1.2 to 2 per cent with moderate or severe abnormalities.

The new targets, contained in three documents published by the NHS cervical screening programme yesterday, set an annual minimum of 15,000 smears for laboratories and 3,000 per screener.

Of the 188 laboratories in England, 34 screened fewer than 15,000 smears last year, though some of these are specialist laboratories receiving a high proportion of abnormal smears.

Julietta Patnick, co-ordinator of the national programme, said: "If you don't

have a sufficient throughput you will not see a sufficient number of abnormalities to keep your skills up to date." The targets set a maximum of 7,500 smears per screener per year, to protect against errors caused by fatigue.

Dr Jane Johnson, chairman of the British Society of Clinical Cytology and a member of the working party that produced the targets, said screeners should deal with eight smears an hour for no more than four hours a day with a half-hour break, spending the rest of the day doing other tasks.

The targets also specify that at least 80 per cent of women aged 25-64 should be screened once every five years. All women should receive their results in writing within six weeks, with 80 per cent receiving them within four weeks. Between 85 and 95 per cent of abnormalities must be detected at the first screen.

Sir Kenneth Calman said: "We want to improve the quality and reduce the variation across the country in the cervical screening service."

The screening programme offers a three or five-year test to women aged 20 to 64. About 40,000 cases of cancer and 18,000 cases of pre-cancer are detected annually. There were 1,369 deaths from cervical cancer in 1994, most among women who had never been screened. The scheme is estimated to save 1,000 to 2,000 lives a year.



Peter Phillips embracing his mother, the Princess Royal, yesterday during a seven-a-side schoolboy rugby tournament at Rosslyn Park, west London. The 16-year-old was playing for Gordonstoun. Report, page 44

Customs warns of heroin epidemic as smuggling grows

By STEWART TENDER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is facing a heroin epidemic, customs investigators said yesterday as they announced record seizures of the drug last year.

The 80 per cent increase in finds in 1995 heightened fears

that the drug is once again becoming fashionable among young people. Abuse of heroin has been rising for the past five years and investigators believe traffickers are attempting to flood Britain with imports smuggled from south-west Asia.

The drug has become more easily accessible because it can be smoked rather than injected. Doses of heroin are sold as paper "wraps", in which the drug is screwed into a tiny, tight bundle. Each wrap sells on the streets for £10.

Speaking at the launch of national police and customs

HEROIN SEIZURES 1991-1995		
449.38kg	620.55kg	
1992	1994	
408.77kg	616.14kg	1,117.82kg
1991	1993	1994

DRUG SEIZURES 1995		
DRUG	KILOGRAMS	VALUE
Cocaine	940.702	£ 109,497,712.80
Cannabis resin	39,776.228	£ 135,239,175.20
Ecstasy	543.926	£ 29,372,004.00
Opium	4.617	£ 46,170.00

drug figures for 1995, Dick Kellaway, head of customs investigations, said the heroin threat was "potentially the most serious drug problem that all of us face."

"All the evidence points to a

massive increase in the volume of heroin being targeted on the UK." The drugs seized last year were worth £115 million.

Seizures of cocaine fell to 940 kilograms last year, down

from 2,205kg in 1994. However, if three large finds are taken separately, customs officers say cocaine figures are still going up.

Police forces reported a 37 per cent rise in heroin finds. It is the most frequently seized class A drug; last year it was found in more than a third of class A drug raids or arrests.

Mr Kellaway said heroin was being imported to create a market, rather than to meet existing demand. Smugglers made more money from Britain because the price was higher than in the rest of Europe.

Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons and chairman of a ministerial group on drug misuse, said the Government intended to stop an increase in heroin abuse. "Britain is not awash with drugs, but we have to recognise that reducing the supply of illegal substances ultimately depends on

reducing the demand for them." Tom Sackville, a junior Home Office minister, said the Government was planning tougher sentences for dealers who were repeatedly convicted.

He said: "Those who try to subvert our children have to be punished."

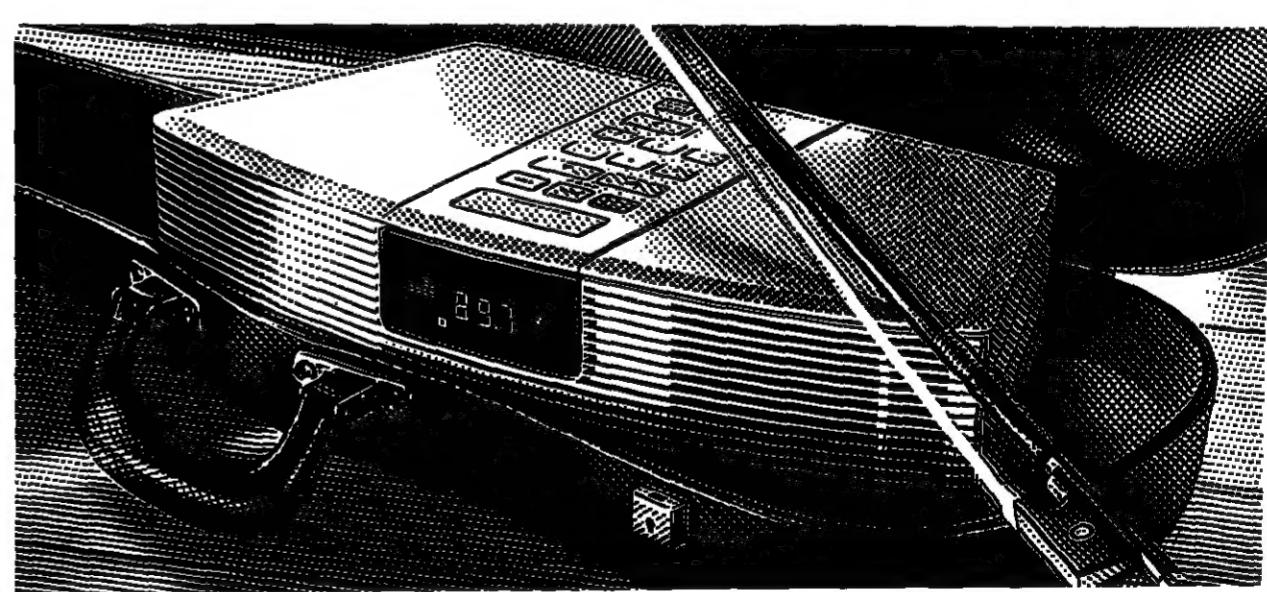
Seizures of ecstasy rose by 18 per cent from about 400kg to 544kg, the equivalent of 21 million doses. Customs inves-

tigators also found a record 55 tonnes of cannabis.

Overall in 1995 Customs seized its largest amount of drugs ever. Officers uncovered 55.6 tonnes of drugs worth £457 million, compared with 51 tonnes in 1994. A further £421 million worth of drugs was found abroad. In all, customs officers believe they prevented drugs worth £1.2 billion entering Britain.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police and head of a police committee on drug problems, said ecstasy finds rose 50 per cent: "We have an acceptance of drugs ... particularly among 'rave' users. There seems to be a belief that what they are doing is not wrong. That misunderstanding is something we have got to get through."

Two men dressed as a pantomime cow charged through a cordon on the Newbury bypass site, magistrates at Andover, Hampshire, were told. They denied aggravated trespass and were bailed to reappear on April 14.



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As a result, all 183 drivers caught over the weekend will be notified by police of their offences, be fined £40 and have three points endorsed on their licences.

As a result, all 183 drivers caught over the weekend will be notified by police of their offences, be fined £40 and have three points endorsed on their licences.

MacKenzie accepts apology

Kelvin MacKenzie, head of Mirror Group Television, accepted an apology at the High Court for claims that Rupert Murdoch dismissed him from BSkyB for incompetence. George Carman, QC, for Mr MacKenzie, said he left voluntarily. Business Magazines (UK), Tom Ruby, former editor of *BusinessAge*, and journalist Anil Bhowmik accepted their report was inaccurate.

Flowers taken

Three people were arrested after flowers were taken on Saturday from a fatal accident scene. They had been left at the spot where WPC Philippa Parish, 29, was injured when a police car hit a wall while answering a burglar alarm in Winchester last Wednesday. She died later.

Hijacker banned

A student who hijacked a bus and passengers was banned from driving for two years and given 100 hours of community service by Bow Street magistrates in London. Matthew Watkins, 23, of Kennington, south London, admitted drink-driving and driving without insurance.

Double trouble

Paul Brown, 25, of Knowsley, Merseyside, a remand prisoner who went on the run for 22 months after changing clothes with his identical twin in a prison visiting room, was jailed for 18 months at Liverpool. His brother had been jailed for 12 months.

Hostages moved

The four Britons being held by separatist rebels in Iran have been moved from place to place almost every day, an Indonesian hostage said after being freed. One of them, Anna Melvor, 20, "had to be carried because of sheer fatigue", he said.

Cow charged

Two men dressed as a pantomime cow charged through a cordon on the Newbury bypass site, magistrates at Andover, Hampshire, were told. They denied aggravated trespass and were bailed to reappear on April 14.

Rock found in Moroccan village Geologist digs up unknown mineral on roadside stall

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A BRIGHT blue rock bought for a few pounds at a roadside stall in Morocco is unlike anything known to science, according to experts at the Natural History Museum in London.

The pyramid-shaped mineral was taken to the museum by its owner, Anna Grayson, a broadcaster, when she was presenting a programme during last year's Science Week in which museum experts identified objects taken in by members of the public.

The Arab stallholder who sold it to her described it as lapis lazuli, but Mrs Grayson, a geologist by training, realised it was more unusual. She could not identify it, and nor could the museum's expert, Dr Gordon Cressley.

Tests at the museum using X-ray diffraction made it clear that the mineral was new. Dr Cressley said that new minerals — about 40 of which are discovered and described every year — are usually found in such microscopic amounts that they are barely visible to the naked eye. This new mineral is so unusual because the specimen is very large and



because it is the most strikingly blue mineral ever discovered," he said.

Mrs Grayson said she saw the rock for sale while on a field trip and was intrigued enough to buy it. "I'm thrilled to bits," she said. "Every stone has a story and this is a remarkable one. It shows that Science Week can be an opportunity for real discoveries to be made."

Under an electron microscope, the mineral — yet to be given a name — has a structure made up of very fine fibres, rather like asbestos.

When viewed under polarised light, it displays a kaleidoscope of colour, changing from bright blue to bright purple.

Studying the fine crystals is difficult, but by bombarding them with beams of electrons

to stimulate the production of X-rays, the museum team has established that it contains silicon, aluminium, calcium, magnesium, iron and oxygen.

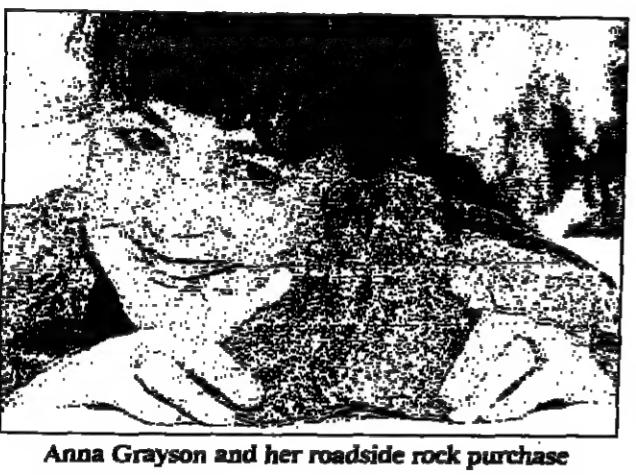
The composition provides a hint of why the mineral should be so intensely blue. It seems likely that the iron is present in two forms and that electrons can hop to and fro between neighbouring iron atoms as light strikes it. Yellow, green and red light are the right wavelength to stimulate the process, leaving the blue component of white light to pass through unabsorbed.

Dr Cressley said that investigating minerals provided insights into the range of properties engineered by nature. "If we want to devise new materials, chemicals and crystals for useful purposes, then we should first look at what nature has managed to do. It has had a lot longer to experiment than we shall ever have."

Nobody knows exactly where the rock originated, and Mrs Grayson, from Watford, is keeping the name of the Moroccan village where she bought it a secret to prevent it from being swamped by souvenir hunters.

"I'm fairly certain it comes from a mountainous region," she said, "but that could be anywhere, even perhaps outside Morocco. It has clearly been compressed, squeezed and heated in the earth, and I suspect it is pretty ancient." She hopes that its source will be found, and the mineral given a name reflecting it.

Mrs Grayson's rock will be a central attraction at the South Kensington museum during this year's Science, Engineering and Technology Week, which began at the weekend. Today it will be shown to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, when he pays a visit.



Anna Grayson and her roadside rock purchase



A passenger boarding a Routemaster yesterday. The buses are popular with the public, but Brussels considers them hazardous. Photograph: JULIAN HERBERT

Housing threat to prime farmland

By MICHAEL HORNBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

UP TO half the farmland in England will be at risk from new housing schemes because of a proposed weakening of planning controls, it is claimed today.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England says the proposal flies in the face of the Government's stated commitment to build a bigger proportion of new houses on developed land rather than on

greenfield sites. Gregor Hutchison, the council's rural affairs officer, said: "The Government is proposing to relax the protection given to the highest-quality agricultural land, classified as Grade 3a, particularly in counties where there is little lower-grade land available.

"We reckon that 35 out of 46 counties in England fall into that category. If the proposal goes through it would mean that up to half of England's farmland will be treated as agriculturally unimportant."

At present Grade 3a land, which accounts for 13.5 per cent of farmland in England and Wales, is virtually guaranteed protection from development because of its importance for food production.

A "more flexible approach" to the development of Grade 3a land was proposed in the Government's Rural White Paper, published last October. The Environment Department says revised planning guidelines will be issued to local authorities this summer. In a report released today,

the council says the lowering of protection will encourage unrealistic demand for new housing. Mr Hutchison said:

"It also ignores the recent warning by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution that Britain could face food shortages in the next century if too much of the best farmland is built on."

The Environment Department calculates that 4.4 million new houses — equivalent to 27 new towns the size of Milton Keynes — will be needed over the next 20 years.

Saudi buys football club for son

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

A SAUDI ARABIAN millionaire is buying a football club so that his son can become a professional player. Saleh al-Aisawi will pay £250,000 for Faversham Town, the bottom club in the Winstanley Kent League, which is threatened with bankruptcy.

The Environment Department calculates that 4.4 million new houses — equivalent to 27 new towns the size of Milton Keynes — will be needed over the next 20 years.

youth squad, of which his son Karim, 14, is a member. Mr al-Aisawi is also one of the few regular spectators at first-team fixtures. At a floodlit game last week 33 paying supporters watched semi-professional Faversham lose 3-1.

Vernon Willis, the club secretary, said: "Our electricity bill for the night was much more than the game earned."

The club is £6,500 in debt.

The purchase has still to be finalised. Mr al-Aisawi, who runs an international recycling company and lives in

Herne Bay, said: "As far as I am concerned, the deal has been done and I am very happy with it. I just want to do everything I can do to help Faversham and my son. We are bottom of the Kent league and cannot drop any lower. I love football and do not think I am wasting my money."

"I realise the club has a long way to go, but we have the right spirit. My son's ambition is to be a professional footballer and play for Saudi Arabia, as I did. He is a very good midfield player and has

already represented Kent schoolboys." Mr al-Aisawi has told supporters that he wants to see the club, which was founded in 1908, promoted to Beazley Hornes Southern League.

Mr Willis said: "I thought it was April Fools' Day when Saleh got in touch with me and said he wanted to buy the club. We looked like folding at the end of the season. I understand his son is a fine player, just like his father was, and like most boys wants to become a professional."

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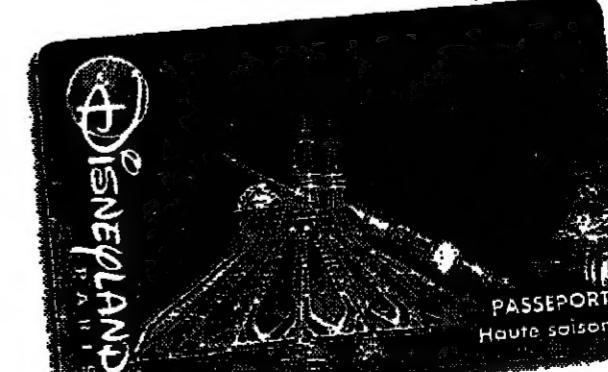
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TW 100

Court told how marriage to 'Mother of the Nation' left Mandela at the end of his tether

President needed to go public with his divorce

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE question being asked by many in South Africa last night was whether it really was necessary for President Mandela, a world leader of enormous stature and integrity, to humiliate himself publicly in a court of law, just to secure a divorce. Perhaps contrary to suggestions, the answer seems clear-cut.

It is worth recalling a revealing early tale about the couple when Mr Mandela, then 41, took his wife for a driving lesson on a quiet Soweto road shortly after they were married in 1958. "We could not seem to shift gears without quarrelling," he recalled many years later. "Finally, after she had ignored one too many of my suggestions, I stormed out of the car and walked home. Winnie seemed to do better without my tutelage, for she proceeded to drive around the township on her own for the next hour."

One of the world's best-known marriages between two people noted for their stubbornness has endured numerous collisions. Over the past 36 years Mrs Mandela has time and again shown she is not one for being controlled. Yesterday's court proceedings gave a glimpse of what the exasperated South African

riage should never be underestimated. It was not unusual for her to see him only once every six months on Robben Island, and then only for a few minutes. As the President's affidavit states: "The relationship between the defendant and me gradually disintegrated over many years".

Her behaviour would have tested the patience of greater men. One is left with the impression of a desperate man at the end of his tether with a woman whose profile as "Mother of the Nation" went to her head.

Early in 1977, Mrs Mandela was banished to the remote township of Phatakkale, outside Brandfort in the Orange Free State. She returned to Soweto in 1985, again in open defiance of the authorities, but many consider it was these nine years in exile that radically changed her.

She became the focus of mass adulation and greed for money and opulence. Her mansion in Soweto cost £125,000 and she surrounded herself with young thugs known as the Mandela United Football Club. Their activities brought her into conflict with anti-apartheid activists, and in 1989 she was isolated within the liberation struggle.

COMMENTARY

leader has had to contend with. In solemn tones Mr Mandela recalled how he had made it clear to his estranged wife that he wanted a divorce and on several occasions sent friends and colleagues to mediate, all to no avail. With a weary look etched on his face, he also mentioned how Mrs Mandela ignored his calls as the leader of the African National Congress not to travel to America with her lover. The strain that his 27-year imprisonment put on the mar-

riage should never be underestimated. It was not unusual for her to see him only once every six months on Robben Island, and then only for a few minutes. As the President's affidavit states: "The relationship between the defendant and me gradually disintegrated over many years".

Her behaviour would have tested the patience of greater men. One is left with the impression of a desperate man at the end of his tether with a woman whose profile as "Mother of the Nation" went to her head.

Early in 1977, Mrs Mandela was banished to the remote township of Phatakkale, outside Brandfort in the Orange Free State. She returned to Soweto in 1985, again in open defiance of the authorities, but many consider it was these nine years in exile that radically changed her.

She became the focus of mass adulation and greed for money and opulence. Her mansion in Soweto cost £125,000 and she surrounded herself with young thugs known as the Mandela United Football Club. Their activities brought her into conflict with anti-apartheid activists, and in 1989 she was isolated within the liberation struggle.



Winnie and Nelson Mandela celebrate the end of the state of emergency in 1990 with a jubilant show of affection, but quarrels marred their marriage from the start

Secrets of husband's accounts

Johannesburg: Mystery surrounds the central question in the Mandela divorce case: how much the South African President is worth (Inigo Gilmore writes).

At the weekend a South African newspaper put the figure at about £6.6 million. But the reality is that only a handful of people know.

The President's lawyers close up when questioned. What is known is that Mr Mandela earns \$52,000 rands (£100,000) a year in presidential salary. But a third of his salary and some of the proceeds of his autobiography, *Long Walk To Freedom*, have been channelled into his Children's Fund, set up to help South Africa's youth. It is also thought that money from his Nobel peace prize has been directed towards charity.

Winnie Mandela is claiming half his assets, but there may be a few surprises if details emerge. Mr Mandela is known to live frugally and, given his generosity, he may not be worth as much as his wife hopes.

Low turnout adds to emptiness of Mugabe victory

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT MUGABE of Zimbabwe was heading for a predictably secure victory yesterday in the weekend's controversial presidential elections. However, he was also having to face up to the poorest turnout of voters since he came to power 16 years ago.

Mariyanda Nzuwah, the chairman of the election directorate, said that only 31 per cent of 4.9 million registered voters had cast ballots, compared with 55 per cent in the 1990 presidential election.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, 71, president of the United Parties, and the Rev Ndzabaningi Sithole, 76, the leader of the Zanu (Ndonga) party, both pulled out of the election last week, citing unfair electoral practices. Election officials first said that the poll would have to be cancelled and Mr Mugabe would have to be declared elected unopposed. Then they reversed that decision, saying the notices of withdrawal were too late and the vote would go ahead.

"I regard that figure [of the turnout] as a rejection of Mugabe," Bishop Muzorewa said last night. "He does not have a mandate to rule this country. I feel very good that we have been successful in boycotting this bogus election."

We are now being ruled by a black minority one-party dictatorship."

Results from the first seven constituencies showed Mr Mugabe won all comfortably, except for Chipping South, Mr Sithole's parliamentary seat.

Mr Mugabe ran a lavish campaign to counter widespread discontent with his rule and the corruption and mismanagement that have forced living standards to crash. He has been rescued from deeper embarrassment by the rural areas where he enjoys most support. In urban areas, polling stations were deserted.



Muzorewa: "We are ruled by minority dictatorship"

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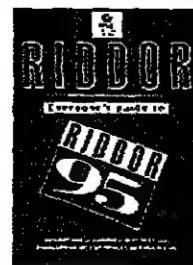
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Reducing Risks - Protecting People

SkyePharma to buy Swiss drugs firm for £128m

By ERIC REGULY

SKYEPHARMA, the small pharmaceuticals company formed in January by Ian Gowrie-Smith, the Australian financier, yesterday agreed to buy Jago, a private Swiss drugs company, for about £128 million.

Jago has for several years been on the takeover list of Mr Gowrie-Smith, the man who in 1987 launched Medeva, a mid-sized pharmaceuticals company that became a stock market favourite. Jago is considered a leader in drug-delivery technologies and has development programmes with several large pharmaceuticals groups.

Mr Gowrie-Smith said: "It is very obvious that if you combine Jago's technology and our

distribution capability with Jago's relationships with these companies around the world, you could build a hell of a drugs pipeline."

SkyePharma is buying Jago from Jacques Gonella, who founded the company in 1983. SkyePharma is paying £104.8 million in cash, which is being raised through an open offer to existing shareholders. The indicated price will range between 84p and 100p, based on a one-for-one share consolidation.

Mr Gonella will also receive about £23 million in ordinary SkyePharma shares, equivalent to about 8 per cent of the company plus 20 per cent of any royalty payments above £30 million a year that Jago collects. The royalty arrangement lasts for ten years and has been capped at a total of 250 million.

Mr Gowrie-Smith, who will own 20 per cent of the enlarged group, said that Mr Gonella was not able to expand Jago on his own. "Jago was at the limit of its financial resources; it was 100 per cent owned by one person," he said.

Jago's most important technology is called Geomatix, a tablet-based system that controls the release of an active drug into the bloodstream. For example, the system might release the drug several hours after the patient has ingested the tablet. The company also has a line of respiratory products, comprising metered-dose inhalers and dry-powder inhalers.

Such products are considered high-growth areas. Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, the Anglo-French pharmaceuticals company, bought Fisons of Britain last year, primarily to gain access to its inhaler technology.

David Calvert-Smith was closing for the prosecution in



Follow that cab: Jamie Borwick, chief executive of Manganese Bronze Holdings, the maker of London taxis, and Hugh Lang, chairman, are upbeat with pre-tax profits in the six months to January 31 up 29 per cent at £2.54 million and a 2.5p (2p) dividend

ASW must renegotiate borrowings

ASW, the steel producer which reworks scrap metal and sells on products to the construction industry, has been forced to renegotiate its banking facilities after borrowing needs jumped beyond its agreements (Christine Buckley writes).

The Cardiff company suffered severe margin squeezes in 1995 with destocking rate in European markets. Profits for the year to December 31 were £13.8 million but that included £1.7 million from the sale of a rod mill. The loss before tax was £4.9 million. The final dividend, payable June 7, is 0.7p for a 4p total, a 33 per cent drop.

Agency topic, page 29

PremierOil increases net profit by 179%

Preliminary Results for 1995

- Net profits up 179% at £25.1 million due to a 66% increase in production.
- Earnings per share increased by 60%.
- Maiden cash dividend of 0.5p per share proposed with share alternative.
- Production average 23,500 barrels of oil equivalent per day. Currently at 30,000.
- 3 new UK fields onstream - Fife, Blenheim and Galahad.
- Qadirpur gasfield in Pakistan onstream at 200 million cubic feet per day - Premier's first significant international production.
- Major refinancing completed March 1996. \$150 million 10 year US private placement and \$200 million 7 year bank facility.

Charles Jamieson, Chief Executive, comments: "Premier has set itself challenging targets for growth and profitability over the next 3 years. These record results based on a solid UK production platform and the start of returns from our overseas investment programme significantly strengthen our position as an international exploration and production company. The declaration of a maiden dividend is an indication of our confidence in the future."

To reserve your copy of the 1995 Report & Accounts to be published on 5 April, please write to: Frank Inouye, Premier Oil plc, 23 Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NR or telephone 0171 730 1111.

Deadline for power bids ruling extended

By MELVYN MARCUS
City editor

IAN LANG, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has agreed to a request by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for an extension to its deadline to report on National Power's £2.5 billion bid for Southern Electricity and PowerGen's £1.9 billion bid for Midland Electricity.

Mr Lang has sanctioned an extension of just under two weeks from this Friday to Thursday, April 4.

As *The Times* reported on March 6, the City expects PowerGen and National Power's bids to be cleared, subject to stringent conditions. The MMC is expected to insist on full transparency in order to aid Offer, the electricity regulator, led by Professor Stephen Littlechild, in its regulatory role. A decision by the MMC to insist on significant sales of generating capacity, above and beyond Professor Littlechild's directive for the disposal of 6,000 MW of plant, could prove unacceptable to the generating companies.

Professor Littlechild strongly opposes vertical integration between the power generation and regional distribution companies. Mr Lang, in contrast, has said he does not believe that vertical integration is "inherently objectionable".

Midlands' and Southern's share prices both rose 2p to 394p and 883p respectively.

Nadir aide 'aware of her duplicity'

By JON ASHWORTH

A FORMER aide to Asil Nadir knew that she was acting dishonestly when she withdrew £400,000 in cash from a bank in Geneva, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. Elizabeth Forsyth could not have failed to spot the name Polly Peck International (PPI) on a bank receipt, and must have known she was handling stolen goods.

David Calvert-Smith was closing for the prosecution in

the case against Mrs Forsyth, 59, who denies two counts of handling £307,000 and £8,050 during a trip to Switzerland in October 1989. The money was allegedly stolen by Mr Nadir from PPI, and used to settle debts.

The court has heard that an equivalent sum was credited to the account of Unipac, a PPI subsidiary in northern Cyprus. Why, Mr Calvert-Smith asked, was a "convoluted

ed, six-stage, highly expensive route" used to settle two comparatively simple UK debts? Here was Mrs Forsyth, the "personal side" of Mr Nadir's operations, accepting PPI money. "Would she not have checked with base that this really was in order?"

Mrs Forsyth maintains she was given a valid explanation for the transfer. Geoffrey Robertson, QC, closing for the defence, said no attempt had

been made to hide the transaction. Funds paid to Unipac in northern Cyprus were routinely matched in Europe by PPI, and there was nothing to suggest that the Unipac books had been fabricated.

Mrs Forsyth left her name "all over" the transaction, and, challenged in court, made no attempt to offer a "ready-made" explanation about the vague events of 6½ years ago.

The trial continues today.

Expansion sees Select profits rise

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

A FORMER scientist who worked for Phillip Morris, the world's largest cigarette manufacturer, says that the company knew tobacco could be addictive and manipulated nicotine levels to ensure continued sales.

The statement in an affidavit is a further setback for the \$45 billion US tobacco industry, which faces a rising tide of law suits and damaging allegations by former employees.

Ian Udys' allegations against Phillip Morris contradict repeated claims by tobacco industry executives that their research showed no evidence that nicotine was addictive. But it echoes claims by other former industry employees, including Jeffrey Wigand, former research chief at Brown & Williamson, a leading US cigarette maker owned by BAT Industries which is bringing a court case against him for revealing confidential company information.

A further blow to the industry came last week when Liggett Group, the fifth largest tobacco company, became the first to agree to pay out money after settling several large law suits, shattering the industry-wide consensus against such deals.

Analysts said this could open the floodgates to more settlements, costing the industry tens of billions of dollars.

Tempus, page 28

New blow in tobacco tug-of-war

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Tempus, page 28

Rogers post

David Rogers, 48, who resigned abruptly as chief executive of Amstrad in December following the consumer electronics group's proposed restructuring, is set to join Lucent Technologies, formerly the systems and technology business of AT&T, as president of its network systems business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Happy viewing

VCI, the video and audio publishing group, saw pre-tax profits advance 39 per cent to £8.03 million in 1995. The final dividend is up 17 per cent to 4.9p (4.2p) and is payable on May 31, giving a total of 7.1p for the year, from earnings up to 17.3p (16.2p) a share. The shares rose 6p to 263p, compared with a flotation price of 150p when VCI came to the market in June 1994.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

George admits to inflation pessimism

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday acknowledged that it had been "fairly consistently over-pessimistic" about prospects for inflation since sterling's departure from the exchange-rate mechanism, although less so than the majority of other forecasters. But, delivering the annual central bank lecture to the Stockholm School of Economics in Sweden, he said that it was the Bank's duty to err on the side of caution "in order to build up policy credibility against the background of the UK's unhappy track record".

But he said that this was only bias at the margin and that the Bank's credibility clearly would not be helped if the caution was generally seen to be substantially and consistently overdone. Mr George said that Britain may have moved into a fundamentally more stable monetary environment, although the authorities still had a long way to go in persuading the financial markets of this.

Premier Oil payout

Premier Oil, the oil and gas exploration group, is paying its first dividend after a rise in production revenues. Shareholders will receive 0.5p a share after a rise in net profit from £9 million to £25.1 million in 1995. Earnings rose 60 per cent to 26.3p a share. Oil production rose by 9,300 barrels of oil equivalent per day to an average of 23,500, with higher production from Wyly Farm in Dorset and the inclusion of 6,000 barrels from the Scott, Ivanhoe and Rob Roy assets, acquired with the takeover of Pict Petroleum early last year.

Victaulic lifts Glynwed

GLYNWED INTERNATIONAL, the engineering group, achieved a 25 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £84 million in 1995, helped by the £145 million acquisition in June of Victaulic, the pipes and fittings company. The company predicted further progress this year after a slow first half. Glynwed said it would continue to sell-off non-core businesses and increase its overseas interests to end its reliance on cyclical markets. The total dividend rises 4.1 per cent to 12.75p. A final dividend of 8.35p (8.1p) is payable on June 7.

TT Group on lookout

TT GROUP, the acquisitive industrial holding company, could comfortably raise up to £140 million to finance another purchase, said John Newman, chairman, yesterday. The company reported a rise in 1995 pre-tax profits to £44.9 million (£35.6 million). Earnings were 19.5p (16.2p) a share and the total dividend is lifted to 6.52p (5.43p), with a 4.08p final due May 23. The company ended last year with borrowings of just £1.1 million after capital expenditure of £32.6 million and acquisitions totalling £23.5 million.

MAID £4m in red

MAID, the online database company, incurred losses of £4 million before tax last year because of anticipated heavy investment costs. Profits were £1.3 million in 1994. Turnover increased by 54 per cent to £13.6 million. There is again no dividend. MAID announced it had won 600 new corporate subscribers last year and had signed up 55 new information providers. The company added that this year had started well with record revenues in January and February.

Ellis in administration

ELLIS GROUP, the construction company based in Middlesex, has been placed in administration. The company, which is the main or management contractor on 28 projects ranging in size from £50,000 to £7.5 million, blamed the failure on a shortage of working capital and late payments on a number of contracts. It employs 60 people and turnover was £20 million in 1995. Simon Freckley, the joint administrator, said it was intended to sell the company as a going concern.

Takare issues warning

TAKARE, the nursing home operator, achieved an average occupancy rate of 96 per cent in 1995, but warned shareholders that occupancy rates were likely to fall this year. The company reported 1995 pre-tax profits of £21.8 million (£21.6 million) after a £3 million charge against depreciation accounting changes. Earnings were 14.3p (14.5p). A final dividend of 1.7p a share, due April 26, lifts the total to 2.6p (2.3p). Capital investment was £51 million.

Wilson Bowden hopeful

WILSON BOWDEN, the housebuilder, said it has seen the start of an improving trend in house sales in 1996, although the market remains difficult to predict. Pre-tax profits fell to £29.6 million (£37.1 million) in the year to December 31. The company is maintaining the total dividend at 10.05p a share, with an unchanged 7.2p final, due on May 28. Earnings were 21.1p a share (21.1p). Earlier this month, the company announced a £10.4 million recommended offer for Trencherwood.

STATE OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

ELECTION

SATURDAY 30 MARCH 1996

How to Vote in Person

If you are travelling throughout Europe, Asia or the United States, you may vote at a Postal Voting Centre at selected Australian Embassies.

In the UK, you may vote in person during weekdays between 9.30am and 4.30pm at Victoria House, until 4.30pm on Friday 29 March 1996.

Please note there will be no voting facilities at Victoria House on election day, Saturday 30 March.

How to Vote by Post

You may apply for postal voting material to be sent to an address nominated by you. Applications are available from Victoria House by telephoning 0171 836 2656.

Electoral Roll Enquiries

The roll for the 1996 State Election closed on 8 March 1996. Victorian electors may make enquiries in person regarding their enrolment at Victoria House.

Australian Embassies will not be able to answer enquiries regarding enrolment for the 1996 Victorian Election. All enquiries should be made to Victoria House.

Iain Murdoch
Postal Voting Officer

Victoria House
Melbourne Place
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Tel: 0171 836 2656

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE												
Set	Buy	Yd	%	Set	Buy	Yd	%	Set	Buy	Yd	%	
AB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD	101852 250 700	101853 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101854 250 700	101855 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101856 250 700	101857 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101858 250 700	101859 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101860 250 700	101861 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101862 250 700	101863 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101864 250 700	101865 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101866 250 700	101867 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101868 250 700	101869 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101870 250 700	101871 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101872 250 700	101873 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101874 250 700	101875 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101876 250 700	101877 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101878 250 700	101879 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101880 250 700	101881 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101882 250 700	101883 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101884 250 700	101885 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101886 250 700	101887 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101888 250 700	101889 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101890 250 700	101891 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101892 250 700	101893 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101894 250 700	101895 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101896 250 700	101897 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101898 250 700	101899 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101900 250 700	101901 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101902 250 700	101903 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101904 250 700	101905 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101906 250 700	101907 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101908 250 700	101909 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101910 250 700	101911 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101912 250 700	101913 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101914 250 700	101915 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101916 250 700	101917 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101918 250 700	101919 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101920 250 700	101921 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101922 250 700	101923 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101924 250 700	101925 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101926 250 700	101927 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101928 250 700	101929 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101930 250 700	101931 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101932 250 700	101933 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101934 250 700	101935 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101936 250 700	101937 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101938 250 700	101939 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101940 250 700	101941 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101942 250 700	101943 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101944 250 700	101945 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101946 250 700	101947 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101948 250 700	101949 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101950 250 700	101951 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101952 250 700	101953 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101954 250 700	101955 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101956 250 700	101957 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101958 250 700	101959 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101960 250 700	101961 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101962 250 700	101963 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101964 250 700	101965 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101966 250 700	101967 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101968 250 700	101969 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101970 250 700	101971 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101972 250 700	101973 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101974 250 700	101975 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101976 250 700	101977 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101978 250 700	101979 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101980 250 700	101981 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101982 250 700	101983 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101984 250 700	101985 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101986 250 700	101987 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101988 250 700	101989 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101990 250 700	101991 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101992 250 700	101993 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101994 250 700	101995 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	101996 250 700	101997 250 700	-0.00	0.00	101998 250 700	101999 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102000 250 700	102001 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	102002 250 700	102003 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102004 250 700	102005 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102006 250 700	102007 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	102008 250 700	102009 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102010 250 700	102011 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102012 250 700	102013 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	102014 250 700	102015 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102016 250 700	102017 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102018 250 700	102019 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	102020 250 700	102021 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102022 250 700	102023 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102024 250 700	102025 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	102026 250 700	102027 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102028 250 700	102029 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102030 250 700	102031 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	102032 250 700	102033 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102034 250 700	102035 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102036 250 700	102037 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	102038 250 700	102039 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102040 250 700	102041 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102042 250 700	102043 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	102044 250 700	102045 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102046 250 700	102047 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102048 250 700	102049 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	102050 250 700	102051 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102052 250 700	102053 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102054 250 700	102055 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	102056 250 700	102057 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102058 250 700	102059 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102060 250 700	102061 250 700	-0.00	0.00
AB UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD	102062 250 700	102063 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102064 250 700	102065 250 700	-0.00	0.00	102066 250 700	102067 250 700	-0.00	0.00
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1995/6	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							

1995/6	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
BANKS							

1995/6	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS							

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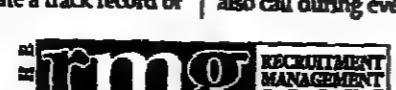
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LAW

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In torment: Caroline Beale is escorted from the Supreme Court in New York by her lawyer, Michael Dowd, left, and her father, Peter

Gary Slapper on the way English law deals with women who kill their children

Mothers and madness

"I believe that any law that grants a blanket exemption from prosecution or punishment to those people who kill their children when their children are under the age of one is a law that is primitive and uncivilised. Granting parents a law to kill their children harkens to uncivilised times. I say to our friends in Britain, God bless America."

This is what Robert Hanophy, a New York State Supreme Court judge, said earlier this month when he replied to the remark of Caroline Beale's father, Peter, who had condemned the indictment of his daughter for murder of her newborn baby as "a cruel and medieval prosecution".

Who is right: the judge or the father? Does a law granting a certain clemency to a mother who kills her baby hark back to barbarism or forward to times of medical and psychiatric enlightenment?

Home Office data show that homicide of children under one year is greater than that of any other age group, being four times higher than the homicide rate among the general population.

This has been the case since at least 1925. An analysis of World Health Organisation data for 1975 indicates that babies under 12 months were at greater risk of becoming homicide victims than any other segment of the population in many First World nations, including The Netherlands, England, Wales, Scotland and Germany.

Many of these fatalities, however, are killings by people who cannot legally commit infanticide (husbands



Judge Robert Hanophy: no blanket exemption in US

or boyfriends) and who are therefore convicted of murder or manslaughter.

Under English law, the 1938 Infanticide Act provides that when a woman kills her child of under 12 months, what would ordinarily be murder is reduced to manslaughter if, at the time of the killing, "the balance of her mind was disturbed by reason of her not having fully recovered from the effect of giving birth to the child or by reason of the effect of lactation".

The mother can still be charged with murder but she will escape conviction of that crime (with its mandatory life sentence) if she can produce evidence to show her mind was unbalanced by the effects of childbirth, and the prosecution cannot refute that evidence. Alternatively, the mother might be charged with infanticide. The significance of the offence is that it allows the judge a discretion in sentencing. In practice, most convictions result in probation.

Today, there is a rich clinical literature which describes a

variety of postpartum psychiatric conditions, ranging from mild cases of "baby blues" involving exhaustion and unhappiness (affecting up to half of all new mothers) to severe depressions and puerperal psychosis which can bring hallucinations, confusion, sleep disturbance, violence and mercurial mood shifts. Estimates of the incidence of such severe conditions are in the order of one or two per 1,000 postpartum women.

The law's concession to mental imbalance in the mother was only one of several reasons advanced to ensure the passage of the early legislation. Other reasons included the idea that the crime did not create the sense of social insecurity which other killings caused, and that such killings, where they were to conceal an illegitimate birth, carried a lower level of wickedness than other killings.

There is now more expert doubt than in 1938 about how often infanticide does result from biochemical disturbance as opposed to distress with social causes such as poverty, isolation and lack of support. The Butler committee on mentally abnormal offenders reported in 1975 that in most cases of infanticide, the effects of childbirth or lactation are remote at the time of the killing. In evidence to the Criminal Law Revision Committee, however, the Royal College of Psychiatrists has noted that some mothers could be impelled to kill their babies as the result of "overwhelming stress from the social environment being highlighted by the birth of a baby, with the emphasis on the unsuitability of accommodation".

Sometimes, no doubt, mothers (and fathers) kill a child in a premeditated way. Those

are, of course, particularly sickening crimes, and ones where, under English law, the State can prosecute for murder. Even in those cases, to label the killer "bad" and not "mad" is contentious.

But there is evidence that many mothers kill in an unpremeditated incident, when they are deeply disturbed — and whether the disturbance is biochemical or environmental or both hardly matters. To deny any special defence to such killers, as Judge Hanophy appears to argue, and treat them as presumptively wicked is to wish to return to principles of law regarded here as implausible primitive in the 1920s.

The doctrine of only using necessary force led to a mythical legal duty that the victim should first retreat to a wall when faced by an assailant. Having taken this vital backwards step, however, it was then in order to kill the assailant. As recently as 1985 in *R. v. Bird*, the Court of Appeal condemned the notion of a duty to retreat but declined to rule in favour of always killing the assailant.

As the case of Chubb and Mrs Harold showed, what is reasonable force to one is a

"violent and unprovoked" attack to another. I had a similar problem several years ago when an aggrieved Henry Ludford arrived at my office demanding to see me. As I had acted for the committee of the Llangollen Chamber of Trade the previous week in expelling him from membership, I manfully declined to see him and skulked in my office hoping that he would get bored in the waiting room and go away.

Traditionally, the law has favoured self-help by aggrieved plaintiffs although the modern tendency has been to retreat from the robust attitude of the earlier judges. The ninth edition of *Street on Torts* primly noted that such matters "are fully dealt with in the seventh edition of this work and will not be discussed further here". In case the reader is emboldened to track down the seventh edition in order to learn the fine points of retaking chattels, ejecting trespassers, distress damage, replevin, the book gives a warning that "in general self-help remedies are now looked on by the courts with disfavour and are strictly construed".

Of course, one can have too much of a good thing. A solicitor friend of mine was involved in a case where the police witnessed the aftermath of a man being ejected from a nightclub.

According to the police, the man was traveling four feet six inches above ground as he crossed the road, having presumably crossed the pavement at an even greater height. A court might well decide that an unnecessary degree of force was used by the nightclub bouncers.

It has always been the case that a landowner may use reasonable force to eject a trespasser after giving the trespasser the opportunity to leave voluntarily. The courts have long striven to curb excesses in ejection and over-enthusiastic self-defence. In 1705 a court clerk called Cockcroft sued an attorney for biting off his forefinger in court. Mr Smith, the attorney, unsuccessfully defended the action on the basis that the clerk had first tried to stick his fingers in the attorney's eyes.

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Unfortunately, Mr Ludford decided to entertain himself by making abusive comments about me to the receptionist. She was able to cope with this but when he rounded on her and made unfavourable remarks about the size of her bottom, she felt that enough was enough and called me down. I went down with a certain amount of trepidation and told Mr Ludford to leave. He refused. I then said that if he did not go then I would use reasonable force, I asked the receptionist to make a note that I was only going to use reasonable force. She seemed somewhat disappointed that I was not prepared to use much stronger measures as a punishment for the insult to her.

I eyed up Mr Ludford carefully. Though he was small, he looked an extremely nasty piece of work. He changed his approach and tried to invoke my sympathy. "You wouldn't use force on a man with only one lung and heart problems," he bleated. I cheered up. Plainly, I was in with a chance.

I grabbed him by his arm, turned him and pushed him towards the door which the receptionist opened obligingly.

There was a brief moment as he clutched the door frame but I carried on pushing and got him out of the door.

As I went back to my room, I remembered that Mr Ludford had recently complained of being assaulted by one of the local court clerks, although not to the extent of having his finger bitten off. I phoned the police to explain what had happened and found I had already been reported for assault. The police came to interview me, which for some reason they found highly amusing. Fortunately for me, Mr Ludford had reported so many people for assault that the chief superintendent had issued instructions that all files were to be rapidly passed to him for "no further action".

But for this, I might well have found myself in the Crown Court charged with the same offence as Allen Chubb. In view of the outcome of that case, many solicitors will view unwelcome visitors to their offices with even greater caution than before.

• The author is a practising solicitor.



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Addison bites back

COULD the Shadow Home Secretary Jack Straw's enthusiasm for reforming the Crown Prosecution Service have anything to do with Neil Addison, its former senior prosecutor? Since Mr Addison departed from the CPS in the wake of a series of critical articles, he is enjoying a new life as a barrister in private practice. "I have rejoined the Labour Party and the Society of Labour Lawyers — and have certainly expressed my views to Jack Straw," he says.

Judicial campaign
A CAMPAIGN to oust the Lord Chancellor from the Cabinet has been launched by a pressure group called Action for Justice. The group

which claims about 1,000 members, has placed advertisements in national newspapers to drum up support. Its latest ad reads: "The head of the judiciary is in the Cabinet and implicated in all government decisions judges may be seen to be compromised by that decision ... Until the Lord Chancellor leaves the Cabinet, the judiciary's moral authority will be in dispute."

The driving force behind the group, which believes the judiciary to be incapable of fulfilling its judicial review functions properly, is Suzan Forsey-Moore, a law researcher with De Montfort University, living in Cambridge. The group was started by former Charter 88

activists. We felt there was no remedy in the courts over such things as rail privatisation — and there ought to be," says Addison.

Press freedom
THE Defamation Bill now going through Parliament has come under fire in *Media Lawyer*, a new newsletter for media lawyers and journalists. It is produced by Tom Welsh, the editor of *McVee's Essential Law for Journalists*, the reporters' media law bible.

The newsletter is for lawyers "who may not have time to read everything they should in their field". But Mr Welsh also hopes it will concentrate minds on a need to promote press freedom. He argues that the media have

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To apply, please send full career details, indicating current salary, to Mr Indi Seehra, Personnel Manager, United Friendly Insurance plc, 42 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HE. Closing date for applications: Friday 29th March 1996.

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HARVEY NASH PLC

Will magistrates see the light?

A report is to go soon to the Lord Chancellor detailing the training needs for the 2,000 new magistrates who annually join the bench. The report comes, according to a spokeswoman for Lord Mackay of Clashfern, in response to requests from magistrates themselves.

She said: "Many magistrates had described the existing training methods as too onerous, and irrelevant."

Critics of magistrates, however, say that the report is a direct result of the exposure of inadequate standards on the bench. In one notable case the High Court ordered costs of £10,000, incurred during an appeal, to be paid by magistrates after they jailed a peace protester. Magistrates were also heavily criticised when a Home Office report exposed huge regional variations in sentencing. One Essex court had failed to imprison a single criminal throughout a year of hearing cases. Similar cases in a Staffordshire court led to one in six of those convicted being courted.

Paul Boateng, Labour's front-bench legal spokesman, believes that such anomalies can be traced to training standards among magistrates. "The lay magistrate plays a crucial role in the justice system," he says. "However, magistrates are faced with an endless barrage of conflicting signals from the Government and its supporters."

"They are entitled to support and a high quality of training nationwide. At the moment training standards between regions vary, and that is totally unacceptable."

Mr Boateng thinks magistrates

Will Hanrahan
describes how
video came to
the aid of the
unpaid judges

should be included in a national "comprehensive training system for all those working in a justice system". At present the Lord Chancellor's Department provides a syllabus for the training of magistrates. It is then up to individual justices clerks to carry out the teaching. Traditional "talk and chalk" methods have been used. But this approach stands and falls on the abilities of the clerks.

One clerk, Steve Reynolds of Exeter and East Devon, became so concerned that his own training methods were failing to prepare magistrates correctly that he began to use television as a teaching aid. He says: "Vital points and issues were not being registered during training routines."

Mr Reynolds scripted a series of video magistrates' court cases and recorded them with a hand-held video-cassette camera. His staff became the actors. The results bore fruit. "My own magistrates could immediately see the sort of cases they would be up against," he explains. "They responded to the training extremely positively."

The home-made productions attracted the attention of Central Law Training, one of the country's lead-

ing legal teaching organisations. It backed the Exeter initiative by financing a professional production of the video, which has so far sold to 60 magistrates' divisions.

"We have covered our costs," says the organisation's Chris Mellor. "We weren't certain the project would ever be self-financing, but we recognised a need."

In what could be a signal for future training methods, the Lord Chancellor's Department has welcomed the use of television in training. "So long as what is taught is part of the syllabus," an official said, "it can only be a good thing."

The video covers four training areas:

• Bail;

• Sentencing;

• Mode of trial;

• Trials.

Each programme is followed by a seminar and written back-up. The cases reveal the style and type of hearing that magistrates can expect. The project was filmed in a court with staff playing the roles of the accused, prosecutor, duty solicitor and court usher.

Video training alone, however, is unlikely to be enough for Mr Boateng. He would like to see consistent standards implemented throughout England and Wales. "I warmly applaud individual benches targeting specific crimes in their areas. Local JPs know best what is worrying their community. However, there are certain basic standards which must be upheld."

• The author, a BBC producer and television presenter, helped to devise the 90-minute training programme for new magistrates.

Small claims winners lose

MORE THAN one in three people who pursue successful claims in the small claims court fail to recover any money from their opponent, the National Audit Office reported last week. Its survey of 3,000 cases found, overall, a high level of satisfaction with the way in which small claims are handled in the county courts. But although 94 per cent of plaintiffs obtained judgment in their favour, only 54 per cent recovered all or part of their claim and 36 per cent recovered nothing. In 22

NEWS ROUNDUP

per cent of cases, this was because the defendant had no assets, in others because the defendant could not be found.

■ ANDREW LOCKLEY, one of the Law Society's most senior clerks, is leaving the society at the end of April after 14 years to take up posts with Irwin Mitchell (heading the firm's professional services unit) and at the University of Sheffield's law department. Mr Lockley, 44, is director of the society's corporate and regional affairs department. The move comes after policy clashes with Martin Mears, the President, but Mr Lockley says he is

leaving because he wanted to move outside London.

■ A LONDON law firm has launched a fixed-price conveyancing package to attract clients aged under 30. The package, from Cumberland Ellis Peirs, includes a will, advice on financial services, a free half-hour consultation and a taxation advice service. The firm is charging £400.

■ THE BAR is exporting its advocacy skills to South Africa under a training programme jointly funded by the UK and South African Governments. Michael Hill

QC has recently returned from leading a team of ten senior barristers and an administrator on a three-week trip to help the South African Bar to set up an advocacy training programme. They helped to train 50 advocacy teachers and held workshops for pupil barristers.

■ LAST Cawthra Feather, a Bradford law firm, has agreed to fight Yorkshire Water on a "no win, no fee" basis on behalf of 60 people who suffered serious bouts of sickness in June 1993. Yorkshire Water denies a link between the illnesses, caused by a parasite, and the breakdown of a water treatment works.

FRANCES GIBB

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The DPP goes to China to defend suspects' rights

Frances Gibb reports on an unexpected role for Barbara Mills, QC

Barbara Mills, QC, is not usually cast in the role of defender of suspects' rights. But the Director of Public Prosecutions found herself doing just that on a recent ten-day trip to China. The Chinese prosecuting authorities are looking at reforms that would shift their criminal justice system a little closer to that in Britain although they worry, Mrs Mills says, that changes might impede their ability to fight crime.

She adds: "I could give examples from our experience here when we introduced changes such as tape-recording of interviews, we had people expressing the same concerns. But the more openness you have, the easier it is."

Mrs Mills was invited by the Chinese as part of the general opening-up process. Bar and Law Society leaders have already visited the republic and spoken with the legal profession there. "Before 1979 they were almost living in a walled city," she says. "Since then the changes have been dramatic, the economy has been booming and everything has been affected."

The Chinese authorities have already come to Britain and a programme for their prosecutors is being organised. The idea of the DPP's visit, therefore, was to enable her to see for herself some of the "major differences" between the two criminal justice systems.

Those differences are fundamental. Jury trial does not exist and there is only a limited role for defence lawyers. The Chinese prosecutors have a prosecuting function similar to that of Crown prosecutors; but there the comparison ends. The prosecutors are central and all-powerful in the justice system: they have a supervisory role over police, courts and prisons to ensure that legal procedures are fulfilled. "If the police don't abide by the law, the prosecutors will reject the work they've done and the

— and the prisoners appeared well-fed and looked-after." Sentences are far heavier than in Britain.

The Chinese are not in any way contemplating a move to the British justice system. "They thought the idea of juries very strange," Mrs Mills says. And courts are closed to the public unless the judge orders.

But change is afoot: her visit coincided with the annual meeting of the People's National Congress, at which there was much discussion on proposals for a new law on criminal procedure. Reforms include more control over police powers early in a case, greater access to defence solicitors for suspects in the early stages, and a bigger role for lawyers in the court process.

Details have still to be worked out. Who will pay for the lawyers (there is no legal aid) and from where will the lawyers come? (there is a shortage). But the aim is for the changes to take effect this October.



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West End

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Edward Fennell explains why modern lawyers need hired expertise to help them to win cases

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Going to law is like going to war. The frontline legal "teeth" of solicitors and barristers are increasingly dependent on a "tail" of technological and other services which may be vital in running a case.

Take the recent Maxwell brothers' trial. Among a range of services summoned up by the Serious Fraud Office, the most public was ShowCase, an electronic courtroom presentation system. ShowCase provides an instant electronic record of what has been said in court and enables the barristers to call up key documents which have been put into its database.

No longer is there a need to rifle through piles of files: an image of a piece of evidence can be called up on a screen at the tap of a computer key.

Legal Technologies Limited, the company that provided ShowCase, is an advanced example of the modern legal support service. ShowCase draws on the latest skills to provide an information technology (IT) service to meet the needs of lawyers. Legal Technologies is now working regularly with the top 20 law firms in London and is also

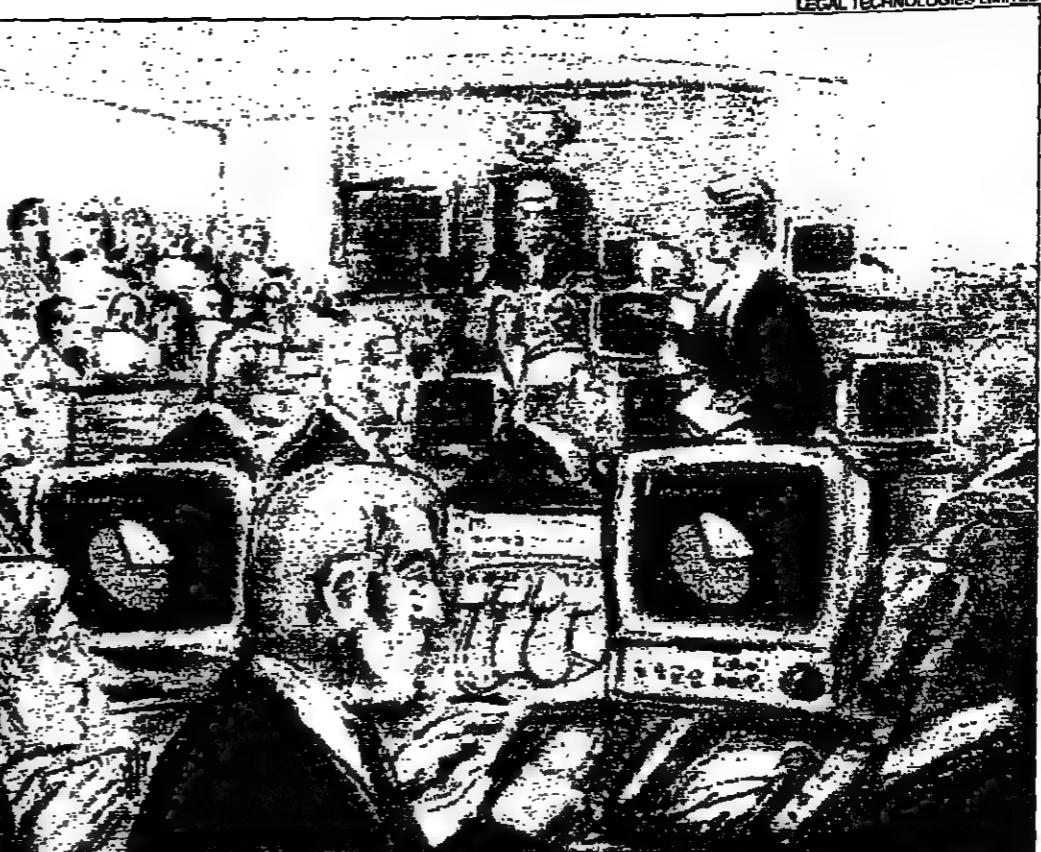
starting to penetrate the regional law market.

Anna Walsh, the company's spokeswoman, says: "With database and CD-Rom technology, a lawyer can carry 30,000 pages in a briefcase on two CDs. The location of a firm in relation to documents and the client becomes less significant and data exchange more speedy and efficient."

What is available in London and Leeds today will be operating in Luton and Lowestoft tomorrow. Other services being used regularly by commercial practices throughout the UK include headhunters and recruitment companies, needed because of the volatile nature of many solicitors' practices.

From teasing out financial information in possible frauds to tracking down children in cases of custody, the private investigator has an important role in the life of many law firms. Drawn largely from the ranks of former police men and women (especially those from Scotland Yard), the importance of the professional investigator seems to be growing.

As Roger Wooley, the business development partner at the Bournemouth firm Lester Aldridge, says: "We have a network of about 25 private investigators in the UK whom we use. We know them well, trust them, and we keep going back so long as they continue to provide a reliable service. We



Online for justice: Priscilla Coleman's drawing for ITN of a mortgage fraud case

expect them to be as professional as we are ourselves."

The decision to use these services is part of the managerial skills of a law firm. In some cases money may be no object, but clients are going to look very critically at the results achieved by bringing in additional services. It is bound to push up the

overall price of the case. But it could also make the difference between winning and losing.

This is most acutely felt when it comes to expert witnesses. Though reforms to the current system have been proposed, we are still in a situation where each side, in a matter of litigation, can present sup-

posedly neutral expert witnesses. Sometimes it is the evidence given by these expert witnesses that can be crucial in court. Consequently, many experts are now available on the market as expensive "hired guns", who are able to produce a smooth court performance and convincing expertise.

In the case of forensic accountants, they may appear in court only rarely but their work in calculating the size of losses, damages or costs can provide the foundation of an action. Major firms such as KPMG and Binder Hamlyn, for example, offer far-ranging forensic accountancy services that converge on real detective work. And as business goes global, so, too, do the services of lawyers and those who work with them.

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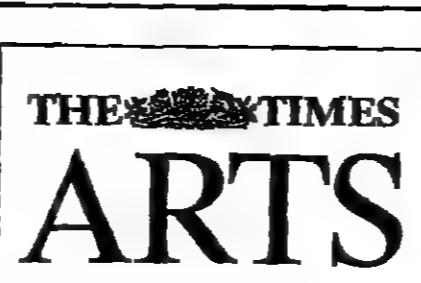
■ POP

Unsung hero? A superb gig at the Mean Fiddler confirms the abounding talent of Joe Ely



■ WORLD

A little of Brazil, a hint of jazz, a touch of classical: Egberto Gismonti's eclectic sound comes to London



■ THEATRE 1

Plenty of fun in a touring production of *The Frogs*, but not Aristophanes's deeper meaning



■ THEATRE 2

Nice movement, shame about the speeches in Nigel Charnock's latest show, *Watch my Lips*

POP: David Sinclair is spellbound by one of the best-kept secrets in the country-rock world

Outlaw who can't get arrested

Joe Ely
Mean Fiddler, NW10

What can be going through Joe Ely's mind as he starts another show at the Mean Fiddler? It is, to be sure, the finest honky-tonk in Harlesden, and on Friday night the bar is crammed to its 600 capacity. But, like the character in one of his songs, it must seem to him that "though so much time has passed, not that much has changed".

Now 48, Ely has gone beyond the point of playing the same game. Indeed, when the Texan arrived in Britain ten days ago, he declared himself unavailable for interviews, if anyone was asking, even though he remains virtually unknown beyond a small coterie of fervent admirers.

His 1970s band, the Flatlanders, became highly regarded as forerunners of country-rock, but only after they had split up. He tasted the fruit of wider acclaim when the Clash took him on tour in 1980 and he became an honorary, if somewhat unlikely, cult figure to the punk generation. But in 1996 he is surely just one more roadhouse veteran, seeing out his performing years the only way he knows how. Another day, another dollar, right?

Wrong! As he and his four-piece band wrap up a superb reading of Robert Earl Keen's *The Road Goes on Forever*, a typical tale of young love blighted by a life of crime, Ely seems genuinely taken aback by the intensity of the applause. And it quickly becomes apparent that with the songs from his new album,



A godfather of country-rock, and a hero of punk after touring with the Clash, Joe Ely is still stuck at square one in the mainstream fame game

Letter to Laredo, Ely has added yet another colour to a musical palette that already includes a vibrant mix of country, blues, rock, Tex-Mex and western swing.

This new dimension is provided by a Spanish flamenco guitarist called Teye, who sits on a stool at stage right, resplendent in a sequined mariachi jacket and a wide-

sombrero. On numbers such as *I Saw It In You*, *Saint Valentine* and the galloping *Run Preciosa*, he complements the yearning emotion of Ely's vocals with the most wonderfully stirring trills and crisp arpeggios, plucked with fiery precision on a nylon-stringed acoustic guitar. His solo introduction to *Lerner to Laredo* is sensational, and

perfectly sets the scene for another story about a desperado doomed to roam the badlands with a "five-number bounty" on his head.

Whether because of a failure of judgment or nerve, though, Teye is laid off about three quarters of the way through, and Ely turns the stage over to his other guitarist, Jesse Taylor, a tattooed old-timer who

was a member of his first backing group in 1976. A conventional, Eric Clapton-influenced blues-rock player, Taylor steers the band back to more familiar territory, and while it is fun to hear old favourites such as *Dallas* and *Me and Billy the Kid*, the magic dissipates as they switch to autopilot for a version of the Buddy Holly and

the Crickets hit, *Oh Boy*. However, an encore of Terry Allen's *Gimme a Ride to Heaven*, *Boy* justifiably produces an ecstatic response, and for Ely it is clearly a case of striking a balance between indulging his sense of adventure and playing within the limits of his game. The road goes on forever, and he still has a long way to go.

Cuts notwithstanding, the story survives intact. It still involves the descent into Hades of the patron god of drama, Dionysus, in search of a playwright to bring back to ailing Athens. Once there, he holds a contest between the recently dead Euripides and the long-gone Aeschylus. Which will have the better influence? The answer is not the sceptical Euripides but the champion of gods and heroes, Aeschylus. For all his satire, Aristophanes was a conservative aristocrat — although you would not guess so from Laird's adaptation, which seeks to disguise the fact that he tended to identify low morals with lowly birth.

There is nothing especially wrong, though, with letting Richard Henders transform Dionysus — a pretty feeble

■ THEATRE

The Frogs
Cottesloe

figure in the original — into a Presley clone who struts about in gold lame with leopard-skin cuffs and sings "I'm a stranger in Hades", while the rest of a gaudy-looking cast wiggles behind him.

Nothing wrong, either, with staging the dramatic contest as a TV quiz show with Euripides the working-class wrestler (Nicholas Tegg) viciously badmouthing Aeschylus the powdered 18th-century nob (Clive Hayward). I laughed especially at a grumpy Charon who rasps "all aboard for Hades" at travellers he finds dilatory.

The chief problem is the chorus, which is reduced to two women, one sporting plaited hair and dazzling blue, the other a black beehive and exotic pink. Suggestions that this jokey duo exists to give useful advice seem preposterous. So do their complaints against political folly and their solemn warning not to "build your city upon pride alone". As a consequence, it does not make much difference which dramatis Dionysus resurfaces. He could have dug up Noé Coward for all it appears to matter.

That is a pity, for *The Frogs* is not only the first piece of dramatic criticism in existence, but the first piece of writing to suggest that drama can influence the way people think and live. What better thought to take to Lancaster, Sevenoaks et al? Sadly, they may miss it in all the fun.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Deep truths left in the shallows

■ THEATRE

The Frogs
Cottesloe

figure in the original — into a Presley clone who struts about in gold lame with leopard-skin cuffs and sings "I'm a stranger in Hades", while the rest of a gaudy-looking cast wiggles behind him.

Fiona Laird recognises this fully in her programme notes, adequately in her translation of the play, and barely at all in the touring production that is passing through the Cottesloe en route to Cardiff and Cumbernauld, Watford, Hemel Hempstead and elsewhere. Under her direction, one side of *The Frogs* fills the National's lily ponds with cheerful noises while the other has yet to swim to the surface.

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BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Web of whingers

Watch my Lips
Drill Hall

rejected Di (Sherlock) is left with only fags — cigarettes and Adrian — for company.

The set by Simon Reeves, hints at a boxing ring, with the front row of the audience as the fourth rope and the others represented by drinks table, clothes rail and an oversize sofa.

At the start of the evening the four performers come forward and make stammering attempts to suggest their feelings to us, ending when some invisible tickler — I suppose it is "the rub of love" — renders them helpless. Another line in the same Dylan Thomas poem asks "Shall it be male or female?" which is the question the bisexual characters ask, although the arguments over the answers soon become repetitiously unresolved.

Howells masters a remarkable lip-synching number, and any scene with music works well enough because the male performers are better doing the synchronised dancing, falling, rolling and shivering than they are with their dreadful tirades. Harwood and Sherlock are the better all-round performers but the characters Charnock gives them are indefinite. A hundred minutes in their whinging company passed slowly.

JEREMY KINGSTON

When Egberto Gismonti performs at the Barbican this Thursday, he will confound all the facile notions we have of Brazil, of Brazilians, and of their musical sounds. Gismonti's is not the honey-tanned face from a tourist poster, nor is his music the loose-limbed and languid affair that we have come to expect from his land. Taxonomists of music find him maddening: how on earth, they have asked themselves for 20 years, does one classify the stuff he composes and plays? Is it jazz? Is it classical? And is it even "Brazilian"?

The answer only adds a fresh knot to the problem. Gismonti's music is as eclectic as the many influences which have given it nourishment. These influences, when processed in his austere, uncultured mind, have yielded a singular style — one that crosses every musical boundary while laying claim, at the same time, to the acre of each genre.

Gismonti is just past the halfway stage of an extended tour which began in Buenos Aires in the last days of February and which ends in the Spanish city of Valencia on March 28. London, however, is a sentimental place for Brazilian musicians, and not merely because of the curious habit of Anglophilic which people from Brazil appear to share.

Gilberto Gil and Caetano Veloso, the two Brazilian musicians Britain knows best, spent time in London in the

Awful lot of echoes in Brazil

**The stunning
guitarist and
pianist Egberto
Gismonti defies
classification
says Tunku
Varadarajan**

early 1970s in exile from the repressive military regime which ruled their country at the time. Gismonti is as fluid a musician as Gil and Veloso — and many would argue that he surpasses them by his invention — but he has scarcely a fraction of the accolade that they have won. In fact, *The Rough Guide to World Music*, which trumpets off its cover that it is "the complete handbook", makes not a single mention of him in nearly 700 pages.

Why is Gismonti not better known? The reason for this is, perhaps, straightforward: he is a cerebral guitarist and pianist, always coaxing his rigorous technique into ever more daring directions.

Gil and Veloso, by comparison, sing in a beautiful language — Portuguese — to lilt meadows. Their music is easy to listen to, compellingly simple. But Gismonti takes his



Gismonti capable of moving between wildly different genres within a single piece

listeners' attention as he moves mercurially from genre to genre, often within the same composition.

His classical training with the renowned Nadia Boulanger is everywhere apparent: a typical Gismonti composition plays out in extended form, with themes and variations. Boulanger taught him how to play the piano in Paris and he returned to Brazil and taught himself how to play the guitar. With these instruments — but

primarily the latter, of which he plays everything from the six to 14 string versions — Gismonti has moulded his own singular idiom.

There is a rich seam of jazz in his music (he has played and recorded with the saxophonist Jan Garbarek, the bassist Charlie Haden and the percussionist Nana Vasconcelos). There is often a homage to Ravel or Debussy or Bach in his piano, or a flavour of Stravinsky in his syncopa-

tions, or of Philip Glass in the ostinato patterns on his guitar. At his most stylish there are also frequent flamenco infusions redolent of Segovia and there is samba, choro, bossa, *baião*, even *favela*, all from Brazil.

Above all, it is Heitor Villa-Lobos, Brazil's only outstanding classical composer, who has consistently been his exemplar. Like him, Gismonti has submersed himself in the melodies and rhythms of Bra-

zilian folk music, melding them with the conventions and instruments of Europe. Yet while Villa-Lobos made the folk-tune classical, Gismonti has made the folk-tune... well, Gismonti.

Gismonti's musical path — where the new continent meets the old — was not cut by Villa-Lobos alone. Mention must be made of the illustrious Pixinguinha, who married his *choro* to the foxtrot and ragtime, and of Laurindo Almeida's jazz-samba.

Gismonti owes a debt, also,

to Hermé Pascual, the fat, white-bearded albino from Alagoas, in northeast Brazil. His was the most freewheeling music in Brazil before Gismonti's, and Pascual's hunger for new sounds liberated a generation of musicians from their captivity to particular forms.

But Gismonti's range also includes his country's Amerindian music, which he studied while living with a tribe near the Xingu River. An earlier album, *Sol do Meio Dia*, was shaped by his association with Sapan, an Indian shaman. At his last concert in London in March last year, a short Amerindian tune played as an encore on a reed flute was perhaps the highlight of the evening. Will he play it again this year? Do not bet on it, for there is no musician in the world harder to predict than Egberto Gismonti — even in Brazil.

■ Egberto Gismonti performs at the Barbican, Silk St, London EC2 (0171-638 8999) on Thursday at 7.30pm

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There was savagery too in Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* ballet — or rather an ominous undercurrent of violence that erupted in the climactic *Death of Tybalt*. The four movements chosen brought some summing playing from the Philharmonia, which also impressed with the precision of its ensemble in the Scherzo of Tchaikovsky's Suite No 3 in G. The middle section of that movement, with its cymbals and side-drum rolls, acquired, in Pletnev's hands, an eerie spectral quality. The essentially elegiac character of the first two movements was tellingly projected, the second rising to heights of passionate lyricism.

A generous and imaginatively de-

signed programme two nights later for the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Dmitry Kitakenko brought together Schnittke's Symphony No 2 (St Florian), Bruckner's Te Deum and Scriabin's Poem of Ecstasy. The subtitle of the Schnittke symphony refers to the monastery near Linz where Bruckner is buried, Schnittke having conceived the work as a tribute to him.

The

six movements of the symphony correspond to sections of the Catholic Mass, and there is a fair measure of plainsong intonation (stylistically delivered by the vocal ensemble Polyphony). The grotesque ironies characteristic of Schnittke's music are largely absent, although there is a spectacular double forearm smash for the organist in one movement, and a decidedly secular plucked double bass at the start of another. For the most part, however,

the mood is sombre, a quality well caught in Kitakenko's account.

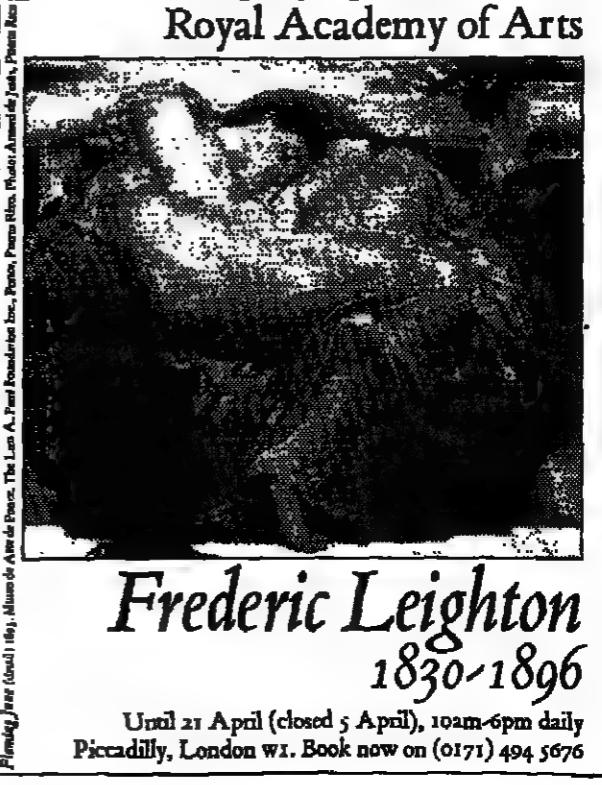
Their massive sonorities and a good deal of C major apart, the Te Deum and the Poem of Ecstasy make an interesting juxtaposition more for their differences than their similarities.

Where the Bruckner is grandiose and confident in its declaration of faith, the Scriabin is decadent and voluptuous ("molto languido" is one of its exotic markings). Kitakenko had the measure of both works in authoritative, skilfully structured and thrilling performances.

The Te Deum — with Christine Brewer, Hilary Summers, Keith Lewis and Robert Lloyd the fine soloists and the London Symphony Chorus in commanding form — was spacious and numinous. In its very different way, the Scriabin also sounded impressively organic. Although punctuating the progress of the wordless poem with clearly defined hiatuses, Kitakenko contrived to maintain a surging, unstoppable tidal flow.

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■ VISUAL ART 1
Power in the pose: Jeff Wall's photographic tableaux go on show at the Whitechapel



■ VISUAL ART 2
Heavyweight thoughts from a Georgian master: Sir John Soane revealed in Dulwich



■ VISUAL ART 3
Work by Boris Pastoukhoff and other rarely seen Russians is shown at the Roy Miles Gallery



■ VISUAL ART 4
... while at the Piccadilly Gallery the caricatures of Max Beerbohm come up fresh

Richard Cork is drawn into the brilliant picture stories of Jeff Wall; plus other London exhibitions

Tricking the light fantastic

Stepping into Jeff Wall's show is like finding yourself confronted by a glowing cinema screen. The image straight ahead resembles an epic scene from a no-holds-barred war film, replete with special effects so gorily convincing they make you flinch. But none of the soldiers moves or makes a sound. For Wall's tableau is an immense colour transparency, back-lit in an aluminium light-box. It freezes the dead bodies of a Soviet army patrol into an unearthly stillness, and allows us to discover just how macabre they really are.

Despite its documentary trappings, *Dead Troops Talk* turns out to be more like a grotesque hallucination. Although the 13 corpses were ambushed in a stony Afghan wasteland, most of them have come back to life. But they are not basking in a redemptive resurrection worthy of Stanley Spencer. One soldier, whose skull has been half blown away, barks at a blood-smeared companion. Another, grinning in apparent ignorance of his severed thigh, looks across at the central group. There, a smirking soldier points with a Christ-like finger at his own putrescent wound. He straddles a sprawling figure who leers as he extends his tongue towards the entrails dangling from a third soldier's proffered hand.

Wall makes no attempt to disguise the invented nature of the scene. It is, self-evidently, a posed work relying on actors to project heightened emotions. Even so, the overt theatricality does not impair the work's baleful power. Nor is our ability to suspend disbelief affected by the seam-line running through the image — a technical necessity which Wall welcomes as a way of accepting the inherent properties of his photographic medium. The line brings our eyes back to the surface of the transparency, reminding us of Wall's kinship with modernist painting.

Although he owes a debt in *Dead Troops Talk* to war movies and photojournalism, Wall composed his tableau like an artist and shot it on an artificially constructed indoor set. The result can be seen as an impressive restatement of the disgust that prompted Otto Dix to paint his great, gruesome *War Triptych* more than 60 years before. But Wall filters his image through an ironic awareness of artifice. While he uses computer techniques to give his scene the maximum amount of realism, Wall never lets us forget that it is a product of his own complex imagination.

The rest of this engrossing show proves how adroitly he moves between the interconnected worlds of film, photography and painting. For all his originality, no contemporary artist is more immersed in tradition than Wall, who studied at the University of British Columbia in his



The "grotesque hallucination" *Dead Troops Talk* (A Vision After an Ambush of a Red Army Patrol, near Mogor, Afghanistan, Winter 1986)

native Vancouver before reading art history at the Courtauld Institute in London. Now a professor of fine arts back in Vancouver, he is keenly conscious of the historical precedents for everything he produces. As a handsome new book on Wall makes clear (Phaidon, £19.99), French art of the 19th century provides him with a particular stimulus. It extends from the *Medusa* to Manet's cool, analytical engagement with so many aspects of modern life.

Wall's ambitions are scarcely less panoramic than Manet's. If *Dead Troops Talk* shows his most theatrical side, the landscapes on display here are often pure photography, unassailed by stagecraft of any kind. In *Coastal Monks*, he scrutinises an epic locale near Vancouver. The distant view is terminated by the ethereal yet awesome forms of pale blue mountains. But their unvarnished magnificence is contrasted with the industrial scene in the centre, where mounds of white minerals ape the mountains' forms in miniature. Wall does not declare himself here as an impassioned protestor against the destruction of Canada's countryside. Even so, the clash between nature and industry is quietly exposed.

Elsewhere, Wall shows how alive he is to the uneasy consequences of urban development. In *A Hunting*

Scene, two riflemen stalk their quarry in an area of scrubby growth bounded by a nondescript housing estate. The bleakness of the setting, intensified by the amount of picture-space devoted to an empty Canadian sky, gives the whole image a desultory air. The hunters seem to derive scant enjoyment from their activity. It is hard to believe that anything worth

His ambitions are scarcely less panoramic than Manet's

pursuing could possibly be found in such terrain. So the suspicion grows that the riflemen might be bent on something more sinister than the shooting of game. Might we be witnessing the tracking of a human target, either by plainclothes policemen or assassins? Wall refuses to say, but he allows us to ask the question by leaving the precise meaning of his image unresolved.

In several other works, he certainly encourages us to speculate about what might happen next. At first, his interior of a shabby block of flats in Prague looks uneventful enough. A

girl makes her way down the battered staircase, absorbed in thought and oblivious of any threat. But the shadows around her create a sense of expectancy, and the dereliction sharpens the tension. Along a dark and narrow passage beyond the soiled sink in the hall, a discarded parasol is just discernible. Lying on a dirty floor, it assumes the significance of a potential clue to a crime.

Wall has a consummate ability to let inanimate objects, and the surroundings they occupy, convey surprisingly potent emotions. The title of *Diagonal Composition* may suggest that he is concentrating, in this unusually small work, on the formal qualities of his rigorous design. But the stains on the decrepit ledge, combined with the decaying bar of soap abandoned on the edge of a cut-off sink or bath, hint at a narrative involving human misery.

Most of the time, though, Wall's interiors are peopled. *Insomnia* presents a relentlessly lit nocturnal kitchen, where green glass-painted cupboards glare down on a cheap formica table and, underneath it, a sprawling man. Sweat-drenched and tousled, he gazes out at us as if aware of being observed. But that does nothing to lessen his isolation. The salt-pot and glass dish on the table seem to mock him, suggesting that they are the only companions he can count on during the long hours of sleeplessness.

The understatement of the work compares favourably with *A Fight on the Sidewalk*. Here Wall presents the struggle between two weirdly interlocked figures, obscured by Caravaggio-like shadows, without his customary command of mystery. The presence of an unshaven spectator looks merely contrived. We become too conscious of the artist's attempt to arouse curiosity, and the staginess of this street-life incident seems misguided.

It lacks the depth of engagement which gives Wall's best work its multi-layered resonance. *A Venetian Tragi-comedy at a Birthday Party* in October 1987 is just such an image. For once, the brilliance of the back-lit transparency is dimmed. Children gather in a subdued living room where two lampshades flank an entertainer. Balloons float towards the ceiling, where they come to rest in a glowing expanse of brightness. Even so, they fail to distract the guests, who all stare in wonder at the ventriloquist's dummy. With his sharply upturned nose, mirthless smile and jutting, voracious lower lip, he has a demonic aura. But he is capable of entrancing the children, just as we in turn are transfixed by the spellbinding power of a master story-teller, a magician with light.

■ Jeff Wall at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 (0171-522 7878) until May 5

ROY MILES's latest trawl through Russian collections, artists' studios and newly privatised museums has come up with some striking demonstrations that whatever else one might say about Stalinist artists, at least they learnt their craft and could produce enchanting landscapes and scenes of everyday life. But the most interesting works come from Russia at a remove: there are some splendidly grotesque new Chepiks who now live and work in Paris, and a fascinating selection of paintings by Boris Pastoukhoff (1895-1974).

Celebrated in the 1930s, when he was a friend of Cocteau, Van Dongen and Lempicka, Pastoukhoff has hardly been heard of since, although he developed in an intriguingly personal direction once he was no longer a society portraitist. He was born in Kiev, and escaped westward from the Russian Revolution, spending time in the Yugoslav court as a semi-official painter before arriving in Paris in 1928. There he immediately created a sensation by winning the Grand Prix and a gold medal in the Salon. He was born with Hilda Carline, the first wife, and by her brother Richard, one of Spencer's most faithful friends. For all that, it is clear why Spencer remains the leader of the pack.

Oliver Poyer, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2033) Mon-Sat 10am-1pm, until April 30

■ While the tangled sex life of Sir Stanley Spencer is being explored on the stage of the Cottesloe in Pam Gems's play *Stanley*, it is useful to have the artistic evidence on show just round the corner. The remarkable thing is that practically everyone involved painted at one time: even Anne Carline, Spencer's first mother-in-law, showed as a Primitive in Paris. It is, admittedly, arguable how much signed by the second wife, Patricia Preece, was actually by her: she lived with Dorothy Hepworth (never with Stanley), and Hepworth's later works were shown under Preece's name. There is also work by Hilda Carline, the first wife, and by her brother Richard, one of Spencer's most faithful friends. For all that, it is clear why Spencer remains the leader of the pack.

Jacob Kramer was a notoriously uneven artist, partly because in later life he was forced to scrape a living from doing portrait drawings. Just before the First World War, though, he was at his peak. Fresh out of the Slade, he was more forward-looking than one might expect, displaying a prismatic sense of colour and a dashing technique in oils, laying on pigment with sure-handed abandon to create dynamic patterns.

During the war he stayed put in Paris, painting intensely period pictures of smartly dressed and luxuriously undressed women. Finally he took to painting landscapes and flower pieces in almost Cubist slabs of colour.

Roy Miles Gallery, 29 Bruton Street, W1 (0171-495 4767) Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm, until April 4

■ It seems odd that so quintessentially English a taste as Max Beerbohm should now be much more enthusiastically followed in America than over here. Perhaps the Americans are less fearful of appearing elitist, for there is no doubt that Beerbohm the caricaturist was little concerned with the man in the street. He enjoyed exposing the foibles of Edwardian society while his "historical" caricatures about the private lives of the Pre-Raphaelites yield pleasure to the minority that know what they are about. Beerbohm also suffers from his self-

John Russell Taylor

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One eye on the past, one on eternity

Isabel Carlisle on a new show of the 'furniture of death' that obsessed the architect Sir John Soane

admired by Soane for its simplicity.

Simplicity, combined with such eclectic borrowing from antique models, was the essence of Soane's style. The tomb that he designed for Elizabeth Johnston in 1784 in St Mary Abbots' churchyard in Kensington was based on the oval sarcophagus of Cecilia Metella.

Soane tended towards the melancholy. He had Etruscan leanings, which to him meant an intuitive sympathy with a nation that, from the archaeological evidence, spent more energy on building necropolises than towns.

When he turned to Greek and Roman constructions for the dead, Soane's love of classical architecture and experimentation was encouraged by the enormous variety of examples that he found. In the period of the Enlightenment in which he lived these were ideal material both for the desired expression of civic virtue in death and for evoking emotions of the Sublime.

The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, built for King Mausolus who died in 353BC and one of the Seven Wonders of the World, was an influential prototype for tomb architecture. Soane possessed a model of its possible reconstruction, as well as models of other monuments. From 1809 he was Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy and to illustrate his lectures he had his students prepare drawings of tombs and monuments from the Pyramids at Giza to the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris. The circular Castle Howard mausoleum, designed by Hawksmoor, had an important place in this pantheon. The first monumental free-standing tomb built since antiquity, it was greatly

architecture of association that contrived to stimulate the viewer's imagination in the direction that Soane had preordained.

The Dulwich Gallery, finished by Soane in 1814, incorporates the mausoleum of its founders Sir Francis Bourgeois and Noel Desenfans. Although the classically inspired tomb chamber is subsumed by the stonework of the top-lit picture gallery, as soon as you step down into the circular steps, turns, and the pineapple (a symbol of eternity), all these ornamental memento mori are pressed into use in an

mystérieuse of which Soane was so fond.

The series of snapshots show a central marble cube enclosed within an elegant canopy that has Ionic columns at the corners and a simple pediment. Overall is a cruder domed canopy that, in 1924 probably inspired Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's design for the K2 telephone kiosk. The Soane family tomb mixes elements as diverse as a prehistoric dolmen, a Roman tomb, and the domed ceiling of the breakfast room at Lincoln's Inn Fields turned inside out — an architecture of association indeed.

In the event, Soane's wife died before him, in 1815, and he designed a family tomb in the new burial ground of

St Giles, behind St Pancras. He found the project so upsetting that he did not visit the site and had his students sketch the work in progress.

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■ Soane and Death is at Dulwich Picture Gallery, London SE21 (0181-643 5254) until May 12

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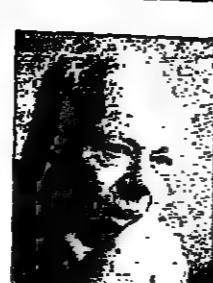
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Verdi shrouded in Turin

The Royal Opera's seven-year Verdi project shines brightly in an increasingly naughty operatic world — all 30-plus operas to be performed by the turn of the century, with both scholarly and entertaining ancillary events turning each summer's six-week festival into a coherent artistic entity.

Sadly, last year's season was mounted under the Official Secrets Act: this year the ROH marketing department has swung into action with attractive ticket and accommodation packages, and with luck London will indeed become the Verdian capital of the world.

But not precisely as planned. Financial cutbacks, which is what UK management plan nowadays rather than seasons, led to cancellation of the new production of *Il corsaro* — Verdi's *Corsair*. It was to have been shared with the Teatro Regio of Turin, and previewed next month (instead we get yet another revival of *Tosca*) before joining the festival programme in June.

The Teatro Regio went ahead on their own last week. What with this and the non-appearance of Mrs Kong

on the South Bank, Britain really is becoming the poor man of operatic Europe.

It would be pleasing to report that the Turin *Corsaro* was a triumph beyond verbal description. Sadly this was not the case. While it would be going too far to dub its loss to London a lucky escape, it is certainly not the end of the world.

The piece itself, though, is almost pure gold: the combination of Byron and the young Verdi produces an opera of irresistible swagger and energy, tunes pouring out, the plot forging ahead at almost surrealistic speed. The Byronic alienated tenor hero, the two sopranos to whom he is a highly unsatisfactory love-object, the fire-breathing Turkish Pasha — it is a heady mix, swept along with music composed straight from the gut, and exactly what should have been staged at the summer festival to contrast with the grown-up *Don Carlos*. The lame substitution of two concert performances is little consolation.

Mauro Avogadro's production, in Greek War of Independence costumes, rightly stressed the Byronic content, taking advantage of Cura's gift for rolling-eye-ball acting: thus *Corsair* was made to lop slowly, meaningfully around the stage. At the end, instead of hurling himself into the sea, he wandered to the centre of the stage and looked thoughtful while the music went ape — directorial bloody-mindedness on an epic scale.

There were compensations, including a harem pool full of decorously nude odalisques (Ingres going on Rubens), but they were not enough. Cura sang with a properly Byronic mixture of energy and sensitivity. The beautiful dungeon scene, an oasis of calm amid all the swagger, went especially well — it was always good to hear a heroic tenor singing softly and sweetly. Yet it is also the prison scene

that occasions the qualifying "almost pure gold" above. The harem, Lady Gulnara, suddenly turns into Lady Macbeth and slaughters the Pasha, returning with bloody hands for a formal two-part duet. Form may dictate this but it is dramatically inept, the one tiny flaw in an otherwise stunning opera.

Roberto Frontali was an appropriately stand-and-sing Verdi baritone as the Pasha, but both ladies — Barbara Fritoli as the melancholy Medora and Maria Dragoni as the spunky Gulnara — could have made a stronger showing with a more sympathetic conductor than Evelino Pidò. He hustled Dragoni through her florid music and failed to support Fritoli in spinning her long, elegiac lines. The cabalettas were taken too fast for their weight to be conveyed, and there was little wit in the harem music.

It was all a little too polite. Pidò is also in charge of the June concerts; perhaps the ROH management could slip something into his coffee and liven him up a bit.

RODNEY MILNES

■ OPERA

Il corsaro
Teatro Regio, Turin

On wings of desire

■ DANCE

The Invitation
Covent Garden

matter — rape and the loss of innocence — is ground well covered in the intervening years (especially by MacMillan himself). *The Invitation* may have been 30 years ago, but it looks every inch a piece for today.

As the Girl, Wildor sailed into her destiny on Friday night like a beautifully coloured butterfly drifting into a hurricane. She was so clearly adolescent, so heart-breaking eager to explore her newfound feelings for her equally adolescent Cousin (a fine performance by Michael Nunn).

Wildor's small frame speaks of delicacy and determination, the two qualities which carry MacMillan's victim into her inevitable desolation; while Cooper on stage exudes pheromones the way other dancers exude sweat.

The work's key pas de deux, the Girl's public dance with

the Husband, was almost indecent — gloriously so — in its brazen display of intimacy. Wildor's Girl and Cooper's Husband were both consumed by their own private agendas: she naively testing the waters of physical attraction; he plunging into the desire that subsequently drives him to violence.

The act of violation itself was a chilling few minutes. The audience was held rapt as Cooper's tormented Husband yielded to his passion even as he struggled against its immoral consequence. Cooper's

compelling performance was never one-dimensional, never a simple case of right or wrong: he was trapped in a complex eddy of competing emotions that all had the right to exert their legitimacy.

Wildor, for her part, sent out the right mix of conflicting signals. There was no doubt that this Girl had issued the "invitation", even if she did not understand where that would eventually lead her.

And there was also no doubt, in Wildor's searing final moments, that this Girl had paid the highest price. Like a butterfly without a wing, she would never soar anywhere again.

DEBRA CRAIN

WE HAVE seen some truly remarkable performances at Covent Garden in recent weeks: Damez Bussell's Aurora; Viviana Durante's Giselle; Irek Mukhamedov's Albrecht. Now you can add to that list the lesser-known names of Sarah Wildor and Adam Cooper. Their performances in the Royal Ballet's revival of Kenneth MacMillan's *The Invitation* establish them both as the leading dance-actors of the rising generation at Covent Garden.

MacMillan's 1960 sexual shocker is an excellent vehicle for their thespian talents. Its wildly explicit choreography is matched by a startling dramatic power rarely seen on the ballet stage, even if its subject-

matter — rape and the loss of innocence — is ground well covered in the intervening years (especially by MacMillan himself). *The Invitation* may have been 30 years ago, but it looks every inch a piece for today.

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Clark denies link with England job

Stealthy Forest unable to throw caution to wind

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

FRANZ BECKENBAUER, the "Kaiser", landed in Nottingham yesterday afternoon, and gave the weather forecast. "It's very close, we know when we're coming to England, with the Nottingham Forest players in their home ground," he said. "They will come at us like a hurricane."

A hurricane? Forest's journey through the Uefa Cup this season has been built on stealth, caution and gentility that barely amounts to a tranquil breeze. They trail 2-1 after the first leg of the quarter-final against Bayern Munich in Germany a fortnight ago and indeed if they are to retrieve that, to make a last stand on behalf of British football at the City Ground tonight, they will need no distractions and full power.

Even then, those who witnessed the first leg in the Olimpiastadion must regrettably suspect that Forest only kept the score down there by mass defence, by a style of anti-football that may be counted as heroic on the Trent, but merely prolongs the English presence without style.

Therefore, the fog of confusion around Nottingham yesterday was almost whimsical. Newspapers had speculated that Frank Clark, the Forest manager, was about to join Terry Venables, to monitor his work and then automatically to slide into the England coaching chair after the European championship in June.

"It's a total embarrassment," Clark said yesterday. "Really, it's a load of rubbish. I've had no contact, officially or unofficially with the Football Association and I don't know where this nonsense is coming from. But I do know that it's a distraction to our match which is important for everyone; we could do without it."

If the suggestion there is that flattering comment, speculation though it may be, harms the preparations of Forest, then some of us do not believe a word of it. The Forest players, led by their warhorse captain, Stuart Pearce, are professional. They know the game, know the task, and if they are mindful at all to read

newspaper gossip stating that their manager is coveted at Lancaster Gate, then there are two ways in which that should stimulate professional footballers.

They could assume that there is some merit in the story, and that their "gaffer" is so highly-placed in the English game, that those players such as Steve Stone and even Ian Woan, who harbour ambitions of playing for England, ought to have incentive enough to put in a performance against the Germans that would make them irresistible should Clark indeed get the job in the summer.

Otherwise, they can feel for Clark's embarrassment and run to the limit of heart and lung to make him feel that he is theirs and they hope the status quo remains. But harm their chances? Not at all.

It will also do no harm to Forest that Colin Cooper, suspended for the first leg, returns tonight, and how Forest

must welcome him given the space afforded to Jürgen Klinsmann for the first headed goal in Munich, and the way the weakened Forest rearguard opened up for the second.

Clark insisted yesterday that his team had been balanced and disciplined in Munich, had maintained their shape for all but 60 seconds that could yet prove irreparable. That, too, is an exaggeration, for the fact was that Bayern Munich, without looking remotely in the top echelons of the European game, were the masters of time and movement and, as Klinsmann admitted, should have put the tie beyond all doubt on their own pitch.

Klinsmann is likely to have to operate tonight without his forward partner, Zickler, who is losing the struggle against injury, while Forest will be close to full strength if, as seems probable, Bryan Roy passes a fitness test on the thigh strain that has handicapped him.

More to the point, Forest will operate more cautiously than Beckenbauer, the Bayern president, predicts. "We've had to play every game in a cagey way to get this far," Clark admitted in Munich. "We've not been able to go out and play an expansive, attractive game because we're not good enough." Exactly, the truth from an honest man who knows that Forest have played almost beyond their means to be the last survivors for the British game in European competitions this season, and survival football is seldom attractive.

They can run to their hearts' content tonight, but each forward pace they take is liable to create just a little more space for the German counter-attack; and German teams, for two decades or more, have been astute at that. There will, surely, be at least one goal tonight against the new Forest cult figure, Mark Crossley, the redoubtable goalkeeper. That goal would make it damnable hard for Forest, no matter how much their British spirit rises, to win — even with hurricane force.



Cooper: back in defence



Klinsmann: forward threat



Wilson spins at the world championships in Edmonton. Photograph: Denis Paquin

Galindo seeks perfection

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN EDMONTON

THE British contingent at the world skating championships here attended the men's qualifying competition to record the progress of Neil Wilson, 17, from Belfast, who was ahead of the field at the first time.

He performed well enough, finishing sixth in his group and gaining a place in the championships proper tomorrow and on Thursday. The travellers stayed, however, to marvel at the remarkable performance of Rudy Galindo, an American.

Until this year, Galindo, 26, was better known as the former pairs partner of Kristi Yamaguchi, the 1992 Olympic solo champion. After their break-up in 1991, his career had taken a steady downward path: fifth in the United States championship in 1993, sev-

enth in 1994 and eighth in 1995.

There was nothing to overshadow his stunning victory at the championships this year, in January, which was highlighted by two perfect marks of 6.0 for artistic impression. He has insufficient funds to employ a coach, a function now filled by his sister, or own a car. He lives in a trailer; indeed, he would not have been able to compete in the national championships had they not been held in San Jose, his home town.

His personal life has been touched by tragedy. A brother and two former coaches have died of Aids-related illnesses.

His father of a heart attack. Yet he skated brilliantly at San Jose, and again in the qualifying session here yesterday. He can jump with the best of

them and, artistically, he has few peers, let alone superiors. He finished yesterday with a superb combination spin that had the audience on its feet baying for more.

His followers still harbour doubts about his temperament, however. "Now he's got his head together, let's hope he keeps it that way for a few more days," one said.

Wilson skated quite beautifully, as he had done in qualifying at the European championships in Sofia in January, demonstrating once again his extraordinary purity of line and edge and musical appreciation. He does not, however, command the important triple axel and triple lutz movements and this will surely tell against him in the short programme tomorrow.

Henman's rapid rankings climb continues

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIM HENMAN, who reached the semi-finals of an ATP Tour event for the third time this year in Copenhagen last week, continues to climb the world rankings. His exploits in Denmark have taken him from No 64 to No 58 in the latest ATP positions announced yesterday.

Henman, 21, who reached the last four in Shanghai, China, last month and in Rotterdam and Copenhagen in the past two weeks, is now only 13 places behind Greg Rusedski, the Briton born in Canada who, inactive last week, has dropped one place in the rankings to No 45.

Henman has made remarkable progress in the past nine months. In June 1995, he was ranked 276th in the world. If he continues to make significant progress, he could soon become the first British-born player to reach the top 50 since John Lloyd achieved thatfeat in 1985. Jeremy Bates, Britain's leading player for almost a decade before Rusedski's arrival and Henman's rise to prominence, never achieved a higher ranking than No 54.

Henman, Rusedski and Chris Wilkinson will be competing in the Lipton's championships, which start at Key Biscayne, in Florida, on Thursday. Other British world rankings announced yesterday include Wilkinson at No 131, Bates at No 177, Danny Sapsford at No 179 and Mark Petchey at No 187.

Thomas Muster, of Austria, heads the list from Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, both of the United States. Michael Chang, another American, equalled his highest-ever position when he rose one place to No 4. His victory over Paul Harrtuis, of Canada, in the Newsweek Championships Cup in Indian Wells, California, on Sunday took him past Boris Becker.

Chang, 24, who has failed to do himself justice in several big tournaments in the past year, said: "It is a great confidence booster for me. You never want to think about things that will make you not play up to your potential. You don't want to have those mental blocks. So this was good for me. Hopefully, the next time I play a grand slam final or another big tournament, I will just be able to concentrate on my game."

Underdogs present unexpected problems to English

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES IN ADELAIDE

AUSTRALIANS love underdogs and never more than when they are giving England, the old enemy, a run for their money. Local spectators had plenty to enjoy, therefore, during the opening stages of the men's world outdoor bowls championships in Adelaide yesterday.

In the pairs and in the triples, England struggled against less well-known opponents, securing victories only after seeing off unexpected determined challenges from pairs, André Luiz Binello and Geraldo So Campos clearly relished their first taste of international competition and, after ten ends, were holding Tony Alcock and Andy Thomson to a 9-8 scoreline.

In the triples, Fred Morley, David Cutler and John Bell struggled even more and, again after ten ends, trounced Hilton Marillos, Michael McNeill and Cedric Edwards, of Zimbabwe, 13-5. They recovered to win 18-17, but only after Bell had trailed the jack for a match-winning double with his last bowl.

Richard Corsie and Alex Marshall, of Scotland, the holders of the pairs title, squandered a 17-5 lead and went into the last end of their first match level, 20-20, with Donny Pike and Neil Burkett, of South Africa. The Scots slipped from 20-8 after 15 ends, allowing Pike and Burkett to compile a 3-2-1-4-2 sequence before a Marshall draw to a ditched jack brought a 21-20 victory. Only Israel seem capable of stopping the holders reaching the semi-finals.

Joyce Lindores, of Scotland, won the women's British Isles indoor singles championship, the premier event at Llanelli yesterday, defeating Brenda Brown, of England, 21-10. Scotland also won the triples, Perth overpowering Swansea 21-8. Loraine Woodley and Mary Price won the pairs for England, 25-17, against Cynthia Morgan and Julie Davies, of Wales. The fours final went to an extra end, with Rita Jones skipping her Wales team to a 19-16 win over England.

Foster ensures Wasps of place at Wembley

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

WITH one weekend of ice hockey's play-offs to go, two issues have been settled: Durham Wasps will be at Wembley and Fife Flyers will not. The Wasps maintained their 100 per cent record with an emphatic 5-0 win over Newcastle Warriors, Stephen Foster making 22 saves for his shunt out.

Wayne Cowley, the Sheffield Steelers' goaltender, who had held the opposition scoreless in his previous two games, finally conceded a goal after 1:49 minutes and 44 seconds on the ice, but the Steelers still beat Fife 3-1 to go to the top of group A.

Faldo baffled by one of the easiest holes

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN ORLANDO

NICK FALDO walked off the course after the final round of the Bay Hill Invitational golf tournament here on Sunday feeling downcast after a triple bogey at the fourth hole was followed by a warning for slow play, his second of the season.

Faldo finished on 282 six under par, after a round of 73, seven shots behind Paul Goydos, 31, the chirpy Californian of Czech origin who won for the first time with a 67 containing five birdies and no bogey.

"My goal was a 66," Faldo said, "but the fourth put paid to my good thoughts and the

warning did not help. They didn't seem to realise that taking eight takes longer than a guy taking four. I was already out of sync and trying to find my way back and I was upset."

The fourth, a par five of 530 yards, was statistically one of the easiest holes on the course, but it baffled Faldo, who played it in six over par for the week. It cost him the tournament and, on Sunday, he needed only one putt, a three footer, for his triple bogey after a series of horrors that included a buried lie and an algae-filled hazard. Nothing went right for him all day.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer South Love all Rubber bridge

432
VKJ4
K87542
K43
N
W E
S
Q832
SAD185
Q4Q32
Q43
Q44

KJ87
V—
QJ108
165765

8 W N E
2NT Pass 3D 6NT Pass All Pass
3H Pass Pass
Contract: 6NT by South
Lead: Ten of hearts

This is another hand showing Shirin the Cashmere in action. She was South. Picking up cards like that is a sound basis for winning at rubber bridge. North did well to bid 6NT over South's Three Hearts — Six Diamonds has no chance.

Shirin took the heart lead in hand (East discarding a club) and played a diamond to the king, on which West threw a heart. Declarer continued with a spade to the ten, and then the king and jack of hearts, on which East shed two more clubs.

Declarer now led a spade from dummy, on which East played low, marking him with an initial holding of KJ x (x). When he threw a club on the fourth round of hearts, and then a diamond after ace and king of clubs, he was marked as being 4-0-4-3, so now Shirin played off ace and another diamond, forcing East to lead

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Alekhine sacrifices

Over recent weeks, I have been commemorating the death of Alexander Alekhine, the great world champion. Alekhine died 50 years ago this month in Portugal. In fact, this coming weekend sees the exact time that Alekhine passed away, still in possession of the title. His games live on as superb examples of the art of attack.

Paradoxically, several of Alekhine's most outstanding games occurred in the early phase of his 1935 world championship match against Dr Max Euwe, the Dutch grandmaster.

In this contest, Alekhine shot into an early lead, producing attacking chess of a depth and subtlety not previously witnessed. Later in the match, though, Alekhine began seriously to underestimate his resourceful opponent, and a sequence of unjustifiable risks eventually cost him the title by one point.

The game today displays the type of sacrificial brilliance that Alekhine was producing in the early stages of this match. By giving up a piece, Alekhine pins White's king down in the centre and ultimately wins on material.

White: Max Euwe
Black: Alexander Alekhine
World championship match Holland 1935

Grunfeld Defence

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5

4 c3 Nf6 5 d4 Bb7

6 Nc3 d5 7 Bb3

8 e5 Nc5 9 Nf5

10 Nc7+ Kd8 11 Nf7

12 Nc5+ Kd7 13 Nf7

14 Nc5+ Kd6 15 Nf7

16 Nc5+ Kd5 17 Nf7

18 Nc5+ Kd4 19 Nf7

20 Nc5+ Kd3 21 Nf7

22 Nc5+ Kd2 23 Nf7

24 Nc5+ Kd1 25 Nf7

26 Nc5+ Kd0 27 Nf7

28 Nc5+ Kd1 29 Nf7

30 Nc5+ Kd0 31 Nf7

32 Nc5+ Kd1 33 Nf7

34 Nc5+ Kd2 35 Nf7

36 Nc5+ Kd3 37 Nf7

38 Nc5+ Kd4 39 Nf7

40 Nc5+ Kd5 41 Nf7

42 Nc5+ Kd6 43 Nf7

44 Nc5+ Kd7 45 Nf7

46 Nc5+ Kd8 47 Nf7

48 Nc5+ Kd9 49 Nf7

50 Nc5+ Kd10 51 Nf7

52 Nc5+ Kd2 53 Nf7

54 Nc5+ Kd3 55 Nf7

56 Nc5+ Kd4 57 Nf7

Big handicap specialist completes Lincoln favourite's preparation

Akehurst puts edge on Sharp Prospect

By DICK HINDER

THE picture for Saturday's William Hill Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster became clearer yesterday when the five-day entry stage clarified running plans.

The ante-post favourite, Sharp Prospect, will be flexing his muscles on the Epsom gallops today. Reg Akehurst, his trainer, has a fine record in the big handicaps, and believes he has the horse in prime condition. The six-year-old won over the course and distance last year in the Spring Mile.

"He has got his summer coat on. It could be that he is a

Dermot Weld will decide today whether Silvan Bliss, a 25-1 shot with the sponsors, will take his chance.

Jack Berry, renowned for having the inmates of his Cockerham stable ready to run at the Lincoln meeting, has entered Fredrik The Fierce in the Constant Security Brocklesby Conditions Stakes for two-year-olds.

The trainer is hopeful his string will provide him with his usual stream of winners during the campaign's formative weeks.

"We've had an indifferent winter but we've got them as fit as we can. But, training here, I don't see a horse from another yard, so you are always guessing," he said.

"It's not like with the Newmarket boys. I remember when Mind Games won the Brocklesby. I thought he looked good, but then when I saw the horses from Bill

spring horse as he did win the consolation race very easily last season," the Epsom trainer said. Akehurst's contender will work under big-race jockey, Richard Quinn, over six furlongs tomorrow. John Reid takes the ride.

The Peter Harris-trained Delta Soleil, who will be ridden by Gary Hind, attracted strong support with Ladbrokes yesterday — 9-1 from 16-1 — after pleasing in his recent homework.

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Nap: MR COPYFORCE (3.30 Fontwell Park)
Next best: Bilazac (3.20 Uttoxeter)

spring horse as he did win the consolation race very easily last season," the Epsom trainer said. Akehurst's contender will work under big-race jockey, Richard Quinn, over six furlongs on the Epsom gallops.

Backers anticipating the withdrawal of top weights, Decorated Hero, Cadeaux Trys and Tarawa, were not disappointed with all three coming out, which leaves the Ian Balding-trained Hoh Express and John Dunlop's Beauchamp Jazz jointly heading the weights on 9st 10lb.

Ian Balding yesterday re-



Mind Games attempts to land a repeat victory for Berry in the Temple Stakes at Sandown next month

O'Gorman's and the other Newmarket yards, they looked like they had come out of a greenhouse, and ours looked like they had come out of the fridge."

Berry runs his 1,000 Guineas hope, My Melody Parkes, in the Nell Gwyn Stakes at

Newmarket on April 16, and her trainer is confident she has improved over the winter.

Berry, yet to win a group one race in Britain, is also hopeful his crack sprinter Mind Games will enjoy better fortune this year than in 1995. The Pussance colt, who

supplied the trainer with his first Royal Ascot winner when claiming the Norfolk Stakes as a juvenile, made a promising start to his season last spring, only to disappoint when odds-on for the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Nunthorpe Stakes at York.

"This year, I hope Mind Games will end up champion sprinter," Berry said. Mind Games will attempt to gain a repeat victory in the group two Temple Stakes at Sandown — which he achieved by an impressive three lengths from Millstream last year.

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Course	Distance	Top
Sharp Prospect	6-1	7-1 16-1 6-1	6-1
Beauchamp Jazz	10-1	8-1 9-1 7-1	7-1
Delta Soleil	12-1	12-1 9-1 12-1	12-1
Moving Arrow	16-1	12-1 11-1 12-1	12-1
Beyond Doubt	12-1	14-1 14-1 12-1	12-1
Billy Bushwacker	12-1	14-1 14-1 16-1	16-1
Roving Minstrel	14-1	14-1 14-1 16-1	16-1
Samwar	16-1	14-1 14-1 10-1	10-1
Shinerolla	14-1	14-1 14-1 20-1	20-1
Hoh Express	16-1	16-1 16-1 16-1	16-1
Fame Again	20-1	20-1 25-1 20-1	20-1
Charlie Sillit	20-1	20-1 16-1 20-1	20-1

After the trials of the Cheltenham Festival, where just one favourite obliged in 20 races, there is no respite for ante-post backers, who are now faced with the major testing race of the year — the Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster.

Reg Akehurst's Sharp Prospect won the consolation race for runners balanced out of the Lincoln last year, and given his trainer's excellent record in the big handicaps, it is understandable that the bookmakers have made him favourite.

However, he is big higher in the weights now, and after an absence of 11 months makes limited appeal.

Lynda Ramsden, who sent out High Premium to win this race three years ago, is represented this time by Fame Again. She is ideally suited by being a fast run race, which she is sure to get in Saturday's cavalry charge and makes some appeal at 25-1, but it may be a shade high in the weights.

The lightly-raced Beyond Doubt is potentially well handicapped but surely needs further than a mile, and Delta Soleil makes much more appeal. He showed progressive form last term, and proved his ability to cope with large fields when a close third to Tarawa on his final outing at Newmarket. His trainer, Peter Harris, saddled a winner on the all-weather at Southwell yesterday and clearly has his string well forward.

Shinerolla was sold by the Ramsdens for 40,000 guineas at the end of last season, and showed him all of his ability for new trainer, Colin Palmer, when he won at Newmarket last month. At 20-1 with the Tot, SHINEROLLA offers solid each-way value.

FORM FOCUS

WILD WEST WIND beat The Captain's 5s-1 Wild West Wind, 7-1; Doctor Angel, 7-1; Doctor Fitter, 10-1; Doctor, 10-1.

BEYOND DREAMS 2s-1 Wild West Wind, 7-1; Doctor Angel, 7-1; Doctor, 10-1.

SET-EM-ALIGHT 2s-1 Wild West Wind, 7-1; Doctor Angel, 7-1; Doctor, 10-1.

TIMELESS EXAMPLE 2s-1 Wild West Wind, 7-1; Doctor Angel, 7-1; Doctor, 10-1.

ANOTHER 1000 2s-1 Wild West Wind, 7-1; Doctor Angel, 7-1; Doctor, 10-1.

THE OTHER MAN 2s-1 Wild West Wind, 7-1; Doctor Angel, 7-1; Doctor, 10-1.

ROYALE ANGELA 2s-1 Wild West Wind, 7-1; Doctor Angel, 7-1; Doctor, 10-1.

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Five nations' formula stands up to scrutiny

Flawed it may be, but the five nations' championship remains a tournament unique in rugby union. If unpredictability is the life blood of sport, then the championship has a pulsating heart with which the authorities tamper at their peril.

Criticism of the championship season just ended is fair in a global context, but it resembles that made of domestic league competitions: clubs, coaches and players have yet to make the best of them and should beware that they do not trip over in their headlong rush to Europe as a universal panacea.

The suggestions, this season, for an improvement to the championship have included support for Italy's inclusion and the projection of home-and-away internationals. The Italian lobby is a strong one and could be accommodated quite easily, but both amendments were they

to be accepted, would reduce the rarity value of international rugby and anger professional clubs who resent the removal of their players.

The five nations are more interested in moving the 1998 championship to the February-April period, thereby creating — they hope — better playing conditions and a longer unbroken start to the domestic season.

The championship this year held a note of warning for three, at least, nations. In 1990, David Sole, the Scotland captain, warned that England seemed on the verge of getting their act together and, when they did, the rest could struggle. Since then, England have won three grand slams and took the title this year even when they have been off colour and making substantial changes in personnel.

They, along with France, have the strong playing base that Wales, Scotland and Ireland can only envy. That envy will grow if the wealth of a handful of English clubs continues to draw the best talent from the other home unions, leaving their domestic game short of notables.

It was always likely that the 1996 championship would be less than vintage. When the British Isles used to stage three-month tours every four years, it was frequently the case that leading players were below par during the next season. Now, the build-up to a World Cup is so intense that players emerge mentally drained while, for many, their career is a climax to their retirement, after which they retire.

David Hands, rugby correspondent, on how England's victory contained an ominous warning for their rivals

eration, but some English beef would be required as ballast and this is where England score notoriously often.

Moreover, their success in retaining the trophy must be placed alongside that of their A team. The Rugby Football Union has been groping towards a cohesive representative whole for some years and there is some danger that its development programme is taking effect. We should be grateful that Wales and Scotland chose the paths they did and played the most entertaining rugby.

Were a Lions side to be chosen tomorrow, there is little doubt that Leigh Davies, Gareth Llewellyn, Robert Howley, Gregor Townsend, Bryan Redpath and Rob Wainwright would be among the first names. David Humphreys, Simon Mason and Jeremy Davidson, from Ireland, would merit strong consideration.

Success against France and Italy away from home were notable victories for the side led by Tony Driopose and spoke well for the team's ability to play constructive rugby and to change tactics in specific matches. The higher the

playing level, the more difficult it becomes to achieve both objectives, but the readiness of such individuals as Driopose himself, Tim Stimpson, Darren Garforth and David Sims for international rugby has been greatly enhanced.

What of such a player as Alex King? The Bristol University student played all five A internationals which, the odd Barbarian and divisional appearance aside, represents the sum of his first-class experience. He is the hottest of properties in rugby's burgeoning job market, a stand-off half with good hands, a good pass, a good left foot and, apparently, lacking only a slight edge in pace.

The success of the seniors provides such young men with a framework in which they can flourish. That is, if you like, France's failure this season and England's achievement.

HUGH ROLLEDGE

IN BRIEF

Basketball league to go open

THE Budweiser Basketball League is to go open after member clubs voted to scrap the two-foreigner rule. The decision, which will come into force next year, reflects the anticipated effect of the Bosnian ruling on the European club game.

Mike Smith, the chief executive of the league, said: "We will be creating an even more exciting product for our growing number of fans to enjoy, with more top-quality overseas talent on display."

As an interim measure, the 1996-97 season will be transitional, with a minimum of five British players to be retained by each club.

Hopley leads

Rugby union: Damian Hopley, of Wasps, will captain England in the Hong Kong Sevens, which start on March 29. Hopley was part of the England team that won the World Cup Sevens in 1993 and links up again with Andrew Harriman, who led the side three years ago and is now manager.

The announcement of the England squad has been put back from today until Sunday when player-availability will become clearer.

Overhaul call

Badminton: Ciro Ciniglio, the England manager, yesterday added his voice to the growing call for the Olympic Games qualifying system to be overhauled. Many players have been withdrawing from tournaments at short notice as the March 31 qualifying deadline nears so as not to put their ranking at risk.

"I believe the International Badminton Federation should nominate ten worldwide tournaments and count players' best results from eight of them," Ciniglio said. "There is little incentive for people to play at the moment. There were 34 withdrawals from the Swiss Open recently."

Stadium plan

Rugby union: Gloucester have unveiled plans for a £15 million stadium at their Kingsholm ground. It will seat 18,000, increasing the capacity by 6,000. The scheme could take ten years to complete.

□ Bristol are considering an appeal against a ruling that their Courage Clubs Championship home game against Saracens should be played on April 20. Bristol want the game, postponed from February 10, to be played this Saturday.

Bell favourite

Sliding: Graham Bell, Great Britain's leading downhill skier, underlined his status as favourite for the British championship at Tignes today in training runs yesterday. Bell was fastest on the first run, holding off Dan Walker, the British No 2, by 0.34sec.

Bell and Walker both made errors on their second runs, finishing second and third, respectively, behind Andrew Freshwater, of Scotland. Kelly Morris is favourite for the women's event.

Clubs begin drive to win control of European Cup

BY DAVID HANDS AND MARK SOISTER

EUROPE'S leading rugby union clubs will this week present their respective governing bodies with their own plans for an enhanced European Cup. Should they not get their way, there is every prospect that they will seek to run their own competition. "We have mailed our colours to the wind," one leading club administrator said.

English First Division Clubs Ltd will meet the Rugby Football Union on Thursday and its Welsh counterpart is due to see the Welsh Rugby Union on Saturday to discuss the proposals agreed last Friday in Cardiff by representatives of clubs from six countries.

Those proposals are for a two-tier European competition next season.

Twenty clubs (four each from England, Wales and France, three from Ireland and Scotland and two from Italy) would play in the premier competition that has existed this season as a 12-team competition from five countries with sponsorship from the Heineken Cup, won by Toulouse in January. A new second-tier

competition would be played on the same dates involving eight clubs each from England, Wales and France, five each from Scotland and Ireland, and two from Italy. "The clubs will approach their unions to gain agreement to the proposals," a statement from the European Rugby Clubs Association (ERCA) read, but implicit in the proposals is the desire of the clubs — who have excluded Romania from the new format — to manage the commercial structures and enhance their own revenues.

Alan Meredith of Swansea, the ERCA spokesman, said: "We are hopeful accommodation can be reached. What we are putting forward is something that will excite clubs, players and spectators. The clubs are not being arrogant but the current competition does not take in certain things which they feel it should do."

The proposals do not exclude an Anglo-Welsh competition and European Rugby Ltd, which runs the existing competition on behalf of the five nations with sponsorship from the Heineken Cup, won by Toulouse in January. A new second-tier

competition would consider bankrolling the new competition and guarantee £15.1 million a year for three years to the clubs — £575,000 each for the 20 senior clubs and £100,000 to each of the 36 clubs in the second-tier competition.

BSkyB would want assurances that the top players would be committed to a breakaway tournament, with the possible consequences for them of exclusion from international rugby and competitions run under their unions' umbrella, and would want clubs to have signed their players on three-year contracts by the end of this month.

Unless the five nations committee agrees to cede control of the existing tournament to the clubs — and that is unlikely — then the threat of a breakaway is very real. BSkyB knows that, if it did proceed, then its chances of winning the rights to televise the five nations' championship would be seriously jeopardised. The company is, however, banking on the fact that the sums that it could offer for the new contract, which comes into effect at the beginning of the 1997-98 season, would be too tempting for the English, Welsh and Scottish unions to resist.

It is understood that BSkyB would consider bankrolling the new competition and guarantee £15.1 million a year for three years to the clubs — £575,000 each for the 20 senior clubs and £100,000 to each of the 36 clubs in the second-tier competition.

The proposals do not exclude an Anglo-Welsh competition and European Rugby Ltd, which runs the existing competition on behalf of the five nations with sponsorship from the Heineken Cup, won by Toulouse in January. A new second-tier

Wigan trio prepare for Twickenham return

A YEAR ago, Martin Offiah, Scott Quinnell and Va'aiga Tuigamala would not have dreamt of playing rugby union at Twickenham again (David Hands writes). Yesterday, they strolled out to eye the cavernous new stands as Wigan, their rugby league club, and Bath unveiled plans for their two challenge matches in May.

While many will regard the cross-codes meetings — at Maine Road, the home of Manchester City Football Club, on May 8 under rugby league regulations and Twickenham on May 25 under union laws — as a commercial gimmick designed only to

fund two needy clubs, the participants have no doubt about the merits.

Wigan anticipate a crowd of 30,000 at Maine Road while Salford and Prosper, one of the Rugby Football Union's elite sponsors, are backing the game at Twickenham.

Offiah, however, who played there for Rosslyn Park in the Middlesex Sevens (his colleagues represented Wales and New Zealand against England before turning professional) expects to be a winner at Twickenham. "If we did win, it would make it a farce," he said, "but we are going to maintain our professional pride."

Tim Rodber, a member of the England national squad,

who watched Gordonstoun's game against King Edward's, Bath, and plays the same position as Phillips at flanker, said: "He showed great promise and is naturally aggressive, an important part of back-row play."

"He has good hands and,

although it's hard at this age to say how well he will do, he certainly fits into the Scottish mould as a flanker."

Gordonstoun lost their schoolboy internationals, Fergie Gladstone and Gordon Duff, before the tournament but, with Phillips and the impressive Tom Lightoller directing play, easily.

Phillips, the first member of



Phillips demonstrates the determined running that brought him two tries for Gordonstoun at Roehampton yesterday

Phillips leads Gordonstoun advance

PETER PHILLIPS, the son of the Princess Royal, yesterday helped Gordonstoun into the last 32 of the Rosslyn Park national schools rugby sevens.

Gordonstoun swept all before them in the festival tournament, reserved for schools who play rugby union for only one term, winning all four of their matches and scoring 22 tries. Phillips was on the scoresheet twice at the Roehampton ground, running 70 yards for one of the best tries of the day in their last match, against Lancing College.

Gordonstoun lost their schoolboy internationals, Fergie Gladstone and Gordon Duff, before the tournament but, with Phillips and the impressive Tom Lightoller directing play, easily.

Phillips, the first member of

the Royal Family to win a rugby union international cap, against King Edward's, Bath, and plays the same position as Phillips at flanker, said: "He showed great promise and is naturally aggressive, an important part of back-row play."

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Phillips, the first member of

Park, Wellington College, the holders, moved through, conceding just 19 points, and Blundell's, whom they beat in the final 12 months ago, meet West Buckland today.

The Canadian school, Masey, went out after losing two matches and a side from a local young offenders' institution, the Feltham Black Sheep, were eliminated after registering one victory, 31-5 against Sir Joseph Williamson's.

Bedford Modern set up an intriguing encounter in the last 32 with their neighbours, Bedford, after beating the competition scoring record in their 80-7 victory against Langley College.

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ROSSLYN PARK SCHOOL SEVENS

Finals tournament Group A: Abingdon 0, Merton 1; Bath 1; Bedford 1; Bristol 1; Cheltenham 1; Cirencester 1; Gloucester 1; Gloucester 2; Gloucester 3; Gloucester 4; Gloucester 5; Gloucester 6; Gloucester 7; Gloucester 8; Gloucester 9; Gloucester 10; Gloucester 11; Gloucester 12; Gloucester 13; Gloucester 14; Gloucester 15; Gloucester 16; Gloucester 17; Gloucester 18; Gloucester 19; Gloucester 20; Gloucester 21; Gloucester 22; Gloucester 23; Gloucester 24; Gloucester 25; Gloucester 26; Gloucester 27; Gloucester 28; Gloucester 29; Gloucester 30; Gloucester 31; Gloucester 32; Gloucester 33; Gloucester 34; Gloucester 35; Gloucester 36; Gloucester 37; Gloucester 38; Gloucester 39; Gloucester 40; Gloucester 41; Gloucester 42; Gloucester 43; Gloucester 44; Gloucester 45; Gloucester 46; Gloucester 47; Gloucester 48; Gloucester 49; Gloucester 50; Gloucester 51; Gloucester 52; Gloucester 53; Gloucester 54; Gloucester 55; Gloucester 56; Gloucester 57; Gloucester 58; Gloucester 59; Gloucester 60; Gloucester 61; Gloucester 62; Gloucester 63; Gloucester 64; Gloucester 65; Gloucester 66; Gloucester 67; Gloucester 68; Gloucester 69; Gloucester 70; Gloucester 71; Gloucester 72; Gloucester 73; Gloucester 74; Gloucester 75; Gloucester 76; Gloucester 77; Gloucester 78; Gloucester 79; Gloucester 80; Gloucester 81; Gloucester 82; Gloucester 83; Gloucester 84; Gloucester 85; Gloucester 86; Gloucester 87; Gloucester 88; Gloucester 89; Gloucester 90; Gloucester 91; Gloucester 92; Gloucester 93; Gloucester 94; Gloucester 95; Gloucester 96; Gloucester 97; Gloucester 98; Gloucester 99; Gloucester 100; Gloucester 101; Gloucester 102; Gloucester 103; Gloucester 104; Gloucester 105; Gloucester 106; Gloucester 107; Gloucester 108; Gloucester 109; Gloucester 110; Gloucester 111; Gloucester 112; Gloucester 113; Gloucester 114; Gloucester 115; Gloucester 116; Gloucester 117; Gloucester 118; Gloucester 119; Gloucester 120; Gloucester 121; Gloucester 122; Gloucester 123; Gloucester 124; Gloucester 125; Gloucester 126; Gloucester 127; Gloucester 128; Gloucester 129; Gloucester 130; Gloucester 131; Gloucester 132; Gloucester 133; Gloucester 134; Gloucester 135; Gloucester 136; Gloucester 137; Gloucester 138; Gloucester 139; Gloucester 140; Gloucester 141; Gloucester 142; Gloucester 143; Gloucester 144; Gloucester 145; Gloucester 146; Gloucester 147; Gloucester 148; Gloucester 149; Gloucester 150; Gloucester 151; Gloucester 152; Gloucester 153; Gloucester 154; Gloucester 155; Gloucester 156; Gloucester 157; Gloucester 158; Gloucester 159; Gloucester 160; Gloucester 161; Gloucester 162; Gloucester 163; Gloucester 164; Gloucester 165; Gloucester 166; Gloucester 167; Gloucester 168; Gloucester 169; Gloucester 170; Gloucester 171; Gloucester 172; Gloucester 173; Gloucester 174; Gloucester 175; Gloucester 176; Gloucester 177; Gloucester 178; Gloucester 179; Gloucester 180; Gloucester 181; Gloucester 182; Gloucester 183; Gloucester 184; Gloucester 185; Gloucester 186; Gloucester 187; Gloucester 188; Gloucester 189; Gloucester 190; Gloucester 191; Gloucester 192; Gloucester 193; Gloucester 194; Gloucester 195; Gloucester 196; Gloucester 197; Gloucester 198; Gloucester 199; Gloucester 200; Gloucester 201; Gloucester 202; Gloucester 203; Gloucester 204; Gloucester 205; Gloucester 206; Gloucester 207; Gloucester 208; Gloucester 209; Gloucester 210; Gloucester 211; Gloucester 212; Gloucester 213; Gloucester 214; Gloucester 215; Gloucester 216; Gloucester 217; Gloucester 218; Gloucester 219; Gloucester 220; Gloucester 221; Gloucester 222; Gloucester 223; Gloucester 2

Disturbing ideas on the good news beat

Mary Lewis's tireless pursuit of good news appears to be leading him in some curious directions. After last night's instalment of *Crime Beat* (BBC1), the series which aims to show that life isn't quite as frightening as *Crime-watch* says it is, his nearest and dearest will view an invitation to stay chez Lewis with dismay.

Lewis, you see, has seen the future of domestic crime prevention and he likes it, he likes it a lot. It is called a domestic surveillance system, which is basically just like all those closed-circuit television systems we see in shopping centres, but in our home.

This was clearly good news for those who are making a living from assembling compilations of such clips ("Quick, we've been burgled, call Jeremy Beadle") but did it really represent progress for the rest of us? Lewis was convinced it did.

A pillar of respectability in double-breasted grey flannel, Lewis was beside himself. "The beauty of your own home surveillance system," he began, in the super-smug tones that he reserves for moments of extreme good news, "is that it allows you to check on what is happening in and around your own home without leaving your armchair."

The "around" I didn't have a problem with (we had already been introduced to the "first burglar in Britain to be convicted by video") but surely there was something just a tad unhealthy about the "in"? Not for Lewis. Those famous cherubic features were positively aglow, he bounded up the stairs to show us the full potential of a system. One ingenuous couple, he told us, had even hidden a camera in a smoke alarm so they could keep an eye on their sleeping newborn.

Two things. Why had they hidden the camera if it was only monitoring a baby and where had they hidden the one in the spare room currently occupied by Uncle Fred and that nice, new Auntie Helga?

No problem with hidden cameras in *This Life* (BBC2), just a film unit and a director shouting: "You're in a shower, darlings, so naturally you don't have any clothes on — so stop hiding behind that curtain worrying about whether the script justifies it and let us see." Which is how presumably, Milly (Amita Dhiri) and Egg (Andrew Lincoln) were persuaded to step forth, clad only in their artistic integrity.

The idea for a drama based on the communal life of five young lawyers was apparently Michael Jackson's. The Controller of BBC2, Early on, you get the impression that some brave soul must have said: "Isn't that a little like

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Friends?" and got horribly slapped down. The order went out: on no account was *This Life* to be anything like *Friends*, the American-made.

The order worked. Nobody, for instance, takes their clothes off in *Friends* (which, I think, is a pity). Nor do they swear, drink and take drugs — all to excess. They do in *This Life*, which even after years of hardened television watching

came as a bit of a surprise. The sex, however — so far much talked about but only modestly practised — did not.

By the end of this reasonably promising first episode, four of our five friends were sharing the house which, rather like the Edinburgh flat in *Shallow Grave*, may yet turn out to be the star. A run-down, high-ceilinged, stucco pile, it immediately makes you wonder why they are bothering with the legal profession at all, rather than going straight into property development.

The four in residence are Milly and Egg, who are an item, and Miles (Jack Davenport) and Anna (Danielle Nadin), who, despite a much-referred-to one-night stand, are not. The fifth, Warren, is gay. It can only, therefore, be a matter of time before he moves in.

While *Friends* has studio sets and audience laughter, *This Life*

has locations, attitude and an unnerving habit of jumping through time. One minute the characters are discussing a problem, the next it is done, sorted, resolved — without us really understanding how and why. But perhaps hows and whys don't matter in your twenties.

It is more than five years since the Cornish fishing boat, *Pescado*, sank off Dodman Point with the loss of six lives. But it is less than a week since Joseph O'Connor, a trawler operator, was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to three years in prison.

Simon Campbell-Jones's film for *Cutting Edge* (Channel 4) retold the extraordinary story of what happened in-between.

The film had some immensely

emotive footage — of the *Pescado* lying on the seabed, of her finally being winched to the surface and

of the rusty, barnacle-encrusted

wreck being towed into Plymouth Sound, some two and half years after she had set out to go scallop dredging. But the most poignant of all was a video recording of the accident investigators successfully inflating the boat's liferaft, despite the fact that it was four years past its inspection and had spent 30 months underwater. If it had been mounted properly, rather than lashed to the boat as the film alleged, lives might have been saved.

But the film also had a flaw. It was too close to Alan Ayres, the businessman who invested in the boat and, after her sinking, became convinced (and spent a lot of time convincing the media) that the boat had been sunk by a submarine. To this day nobody knows — as the film eventually made clear — what sank the *Pescado*. We had spent too long chasing one man's so-far unprovable conspiracies.

6.00am Business Breakfast (25797)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (56068)

8.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (67917)

8.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (2207587)

8.45 Kilroy (s) (8014722)

10.30 Good Morning (s) (35762)

11.20 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2158987)

12.05pm Turnabout (s) (5571529)

12.30 Going for a Song (s) (40364)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (59155)

1.30 Regional News and weather (18065838)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (9479243)

2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (8470083)

2.40 Rich Man, Poor Man. The final part of the repeated soap serial, with Peter Strauss and Nicki Notes (1184722)

3.30 Ants in Your Pants (s) (8088967) 3.50 Orville and Cuddles (s) (4035535) 3.55 Chucklevision (s) (670722) 4.15 Free Willy (Ceefax) (s) (1132888) 4.35 Run the Risk (Ceefax) (s) (2664616) 5.00 Neverround (Ceefax) (3540068) 5.10 Grange Hill (Ceefax) (s) (1223616)

5.35 Neighbours. Mal and Stirling experience main bonding while Libby becomes Mark's latest victim. Ren decides her drama (s) (Ceefax) (715451)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) (635)

6.30 Regional News magazines (387)

7.00 Holiday. Jill Dando sets off for Elba, praised by Napoleon but largely undiscovered by British visitors; Monty Don rents a farmhouse in Poldene, northern Majorca; Kirby Young visits Virgin Gorda in the Caribbean and charts a yacht round the neighbouring islands; and Diana Mould travels through Co Cork, staying at a private country house (Ceefax) (s) (7154)

7.30 EastEnders. Phil devises a plan to keep Peggy off Pet's back; and Pat shows David who's boss (Ceefax) (s) (71)

8.00 Sportscast. Nottingham Forest v Bayern Munich. Live coverage of the UEFA Cup quarter final, second leg, introduced by Des Lyman with Alan Hansen and Jimmy Hill. Commentary from John Motson and Trevor Brooking (s) N.B. In the event of a draw at full time, subsequent programmes may run late (2272513)

8.25 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (534383)

10.25 They Think It's All Over. The comedian Nick Hancock competes a game of wit and sporting knowledge with team captains David Gower and Gary Lineker joined by Rory McGrath and Lee Hurst. Sharon, Devine and Bob Mills are this week's guests (Ceefax) (s) (413906) N.B.: 10.25 Home Truths 11.05 They Think It's All Over 11.35 Weather. All the President's Men 1.50am Weather

10.55 FILM: All the President's Men (1976) starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman. Political drama about an investigation by *The Washington Post* which resulted in the Watergate scandal. Directed by Alan J. Pakula. (67447971)

1.10am Weather (8514223)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are your VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the VideoPlus+ code for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ and PlusCode are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am Open University: Understanding Space and Time (6530548) 6.25 Animal Physiology: Time to Be Born (5851565)

6.50 Oceanography (6753513)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (1725703)

7.30 Stingray (s) (Ceefax) (33161)

8.00 Blue Peter (s) (Ceefax) (5541548)

8.25 Odele Duke. Animation (s) (s) (6725248)

8.40 The Record (s) (6050819)

9.05 Daytime on Two: Lemmepress (s) (6788884) 9.25 See You. See Me (s) (6881548) 9.45 Watch (s) (9044513)

10.00 Playdays (s) (6595935) 10.25 Come Outside (s) (6107744) 10.45 The Experiments (s) (6103838) 11.05 Space Ark (s) (628432) 11.15 Clementine (s) (6852548) 11.30 Teaching Today (s) (61038) 12.00 See Hear (s) (Ceefax) (s) (60533) 12.30pm Working Lunch (4989) 1.00 Teaching Today (s) (57797)

1.30 Showcase (s) (2236021) 1.45 Hotch Potch House (s) (7939067) 2.00 Oakie Doke (s) (2054903)

2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (4136567)

3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (789513)

3.05 Westminister with Nick Ross (Ceefax) (s) (6642069) 3.55 News (Ceefax) (4032258)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (884)

5.00 Esther (1180) 5.30 The Village (174722)

5.55 Turning Points (809567)

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (119282)

6.25 Heartbreak High (Ceefax) (s) (3565631)

7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show. Cult cartoon series (Ceefax) (s) (831088)

7.30 From the Edge. Professor Mike Oliver explores the common misconceptions about wheelchair users (Ceefax) (s) (513)

8.00 Public Eye. John McGhee reports on the failure of existing sex-offender treatment programmes to reform convicted rapists (Ceefax) (s) (7364)

8.30 Food and Drink. In the second of a two-part celebration of food producers around Britain, Chris Kelly introduces a report on cider-brandy in Somerset (Ceefax) (s) (3971)

8.45 Straight from the Heart. The third of six documentaries in which people talk about their real-life love stories explores how the need for love can blind a person to another's faults (Ceefax) (s). Followed by *Video News Shout* (845829)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (249180)

11.15 The All-New Alexei Sayle Show. Comedy sketches (s) (s) (311180)

11.45 Holiday Cuttings (126155)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (85548)

12.30-6.00am The Learning Zone

Attorney Grace Phillips (8.00pm)

9.00 Murder One. Lisa (Grace Phillips) Gillespie defends a businessman accused of gambling his clients' savings (Ceefax) (s) (866364)

9.45 Straight from the Heart. The third of six documentaries in which people talk about their real-life love stories explores how the need for love can blind a person to another's faults (Ceefax) (s). Followed by *Video News Shout* (845829)

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11.45 Holiday Cuttings (126155)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (85548)

12.30-6.00am The Learning Zone

8.00pm A Woman's Vengeance (1987) (3737) 8.00 An American in Paris (1951) (14971) 8.00 Icarus (1986) 8.15 The Shining (1980) 8.30 The Godfather (1972) 8.45 The Godfather, Part II (1974) 8.55 The Godfather, Part III (1990) 8.55 Oscar Wilfrid (1982/180)

10.40 Jeopardy! (s) (149864)

11.00 The Price is Right (s) (16125)

11.30-1.00pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

1.30-2.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

2.30-3.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

3.30-4.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

4.30-5.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

5.30-6.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

6.30-7.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

7.30-8.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

8.30-9.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

9.30-10.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

10.30-11.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

11.30-12.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

12.30-1.30pm The Price is Right (s) (16125)

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ICE SKATING 42

GALINDO WEAVES A MAGIC SPELL AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

SPORT

TUESDAY MARCH 19 1996

Defeated Briton weighs up options

Rematch with Lewis could tempt Bruno

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN LAS VEGAS

FRANK BRUNO says that he needs a couple of weeks to consider his options after his defeat in three rounds by Mike Tyson here on Saturday night. There have been many calls for him to retire from boxing.

One came from his old friend, Harry Carpenter, who said: "The only right thing for him to do now is call it a day. I hoped I would not have to come out with that, but it has to be said and I cannot believe there is a person left who would advise him otherwise."

Yet Bruno, on his arrival at Heathrow airport yesterday, said that he needed time to think. "I have been away for nine weeks and I have got a little boy and I want to chill out," he said. "Then I will be in a better position to say what I will do."

Bruno will certainly not make up his mind until he has had full consultations with Frank Warren, his promoter. It was Warren who, as a partner of Don King, was able to manoeuvre Bruno into a position to challenge for, and win, the world championship.

Warren knows King's plans and would be able to advise Bruno about the opportunities left for him to box for the kind of money and acclaim that he needs. Warren was not available for comment yesterday. However, he might feel that Bruno still has enough left in him to carry on.

Certainly, if a manager were now to produce another heavyweight with anything like the boxing abilities that are still left in Bruno, he would be a happy man.

Even though Bruno is still the second best in Europe, behind Lennox Lewis, his marketability for a world title challenge in the United States is now not too strong after his failure to live up to his boast that he would dump Tyson in Don King's lap.

Bruno has never been considered a sufficiently impressive heavyweight on this side of the Atlantic to command respect. His performance here on Saturday would have further reinforced that view. However, Bruno still has appeal in England and there is one contest that could yet bring out the best in him — against Lewis.

At present, such a proposition is an unlikely one, but one that could yet happen with a bit of luck — and Bruno has never been short of luck. He has boxed five times for the world title: a sixth challenge may not be out of the question.

Lewis meets Tyson in September. That much has been decreed by the World Boxing Council. If Lewis wins, a bout with Bruno could then be very much on the cards.

Bruno has always felt that he had the beating of Lewis, even though he was stopped in

seven rounds by him in Cardiff in 1993. Bruno was ahead on points at the time and had Lewis in trouble before getting caught with a big punch as Lewis came off the ropes.

Bruno, though, might have to wait another year for that bout to take place if Lewis conquers Tyson, who is being lined up to meet Bruce Seldon, the World Boxing Association champion, on July 13. He would become the biggest name in boxing. He would unify the titles without too much trouble and then embark on the contest that everyone has been waiting to see: a showdown with Riddick Bowe, his arch-rival, a bout that would be worth at least £50 million.

All that would take the best part of 1997, if politics do not get in the way of Lewis challenging Tyson in September.

At the moment, with a court order safeguarding Lewis's claim, it is safe to assume that Lewis will get that bout.

Bruno would be 35 by then, but still not too old for a heavyweight. Since he had almost a three-year break after his first defeat by Tyson, waiting for another year before meeting Lewis may not worry him too much. It would at least give him time to gather himself for one more attempt.

Panos Eliades, Lewis's financial backer, said yesterday:

"Yes, we might consider Bruno as an opponent after Lennox has cleaned up the division — that is if Bruno is still around. Even though Bruno ignored our right to fight him before Tyson, we would be glad to consider him as an opponent depending on his marketability near the time."

"Let no one imagine that Tyson will have beaten Lennox. Lennox saw the fight and said: 'I would never let Tyson do to me what he did to Bruno.' Frank just did not move, he just didn't throw his jab. He seemed to have been overawed by Tyson."

Bruno may still feel, at the end of his talks with Warren, that he has enough left in him to give Lewis a good fight. He would be unlikely to win, but he would at least bow out with another million pounds or so.

They were a delight to watch and yet English crowds will be denied the chance to see them — except for a brief and hastily pencilled-in stop-over for one Test match and a couple of

one-day internationals in 1998 before they defend the World Cup here the next year.

This is no freak of scheduling. Sri Lanka were elevated to Test match status 14 years ago, yet England have consistently declined to play them in more than one-off Tests, it is safe to assume that Lewis will get that bout.

England's cricketers are used now to hurrying home from humiliating defeat on the sub-continent — defeat usually accompanied by cultural misunderstandings that make their excuses all the easier to ignore. Their unspoken assumption is that defeats do not really matter: India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are not the real opposition. Not that England do any better against others.

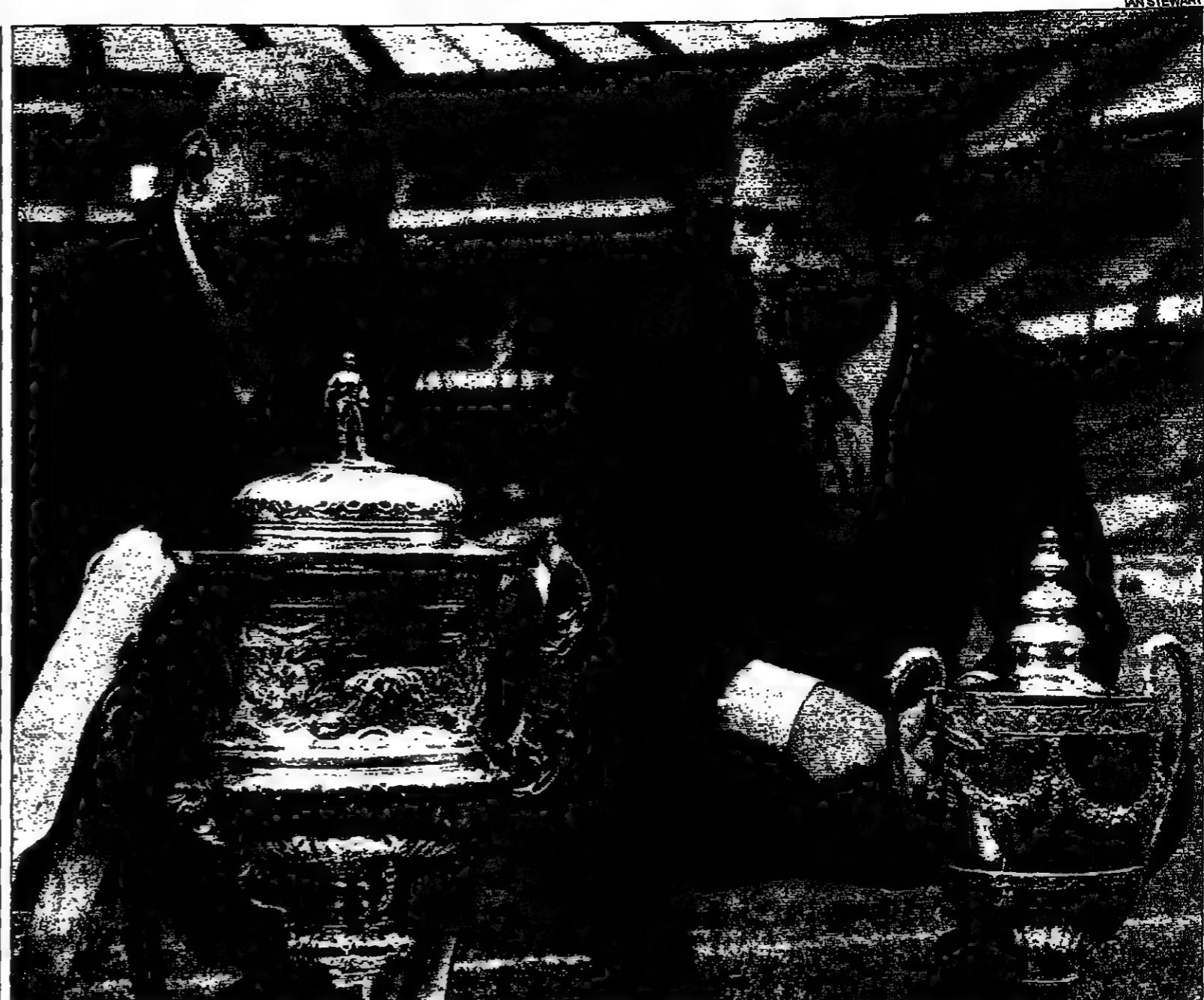
Alan Smith, the chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), confirmed this attitude when he spoke from Lahore yesterday of series against Australia being the foundation stones of England's schedule — followed by those against West Indies and South Africa.

After those tours have been put in place — on four- and five-year cycles — other countries are fitted in around them.

Smith last year "fitted in" an England tour of Sri Lanka in 2001 — number of matches unknown — and "at least" two Tests against Sri Lanka in England in 2002. Most other countries, though, play ball with Sri Lanka more often,

RUGBY UNION 44

CLUBS BEGIN PUSH FOR CONTROL OF EUROPEAN CUP



Tuigamala, left, of Wigan, and de Glanville, of Bath, at Twickenham to promote their rugby clubs' cross-codes matches. Report, page 44

Insular England left down the order

BY SIMON WILDE

SRI LANKA'S riotous gallop towards World Cup glory confirms how emphatically the balance of power in world cricket has shifted to the sub-continent, home three of the past four World Cup winners. Power used to reside in England; now, their cricketers lag behind on the field while off it their administrators refuse to acknowledge the changed order.

One-day cricket may not be as thorough an examination of character as Test cricket, but Sri Lanka are the new force in the game. They won the World Cup with flair and a refreshing iconoclasm towards the conventions of the limited-overs game.

They were a delight to watch and yet English crowds will be denied the chance to see them — except for a brief and hastily pencilled-in stop-over for one Test match and a couple of

one-day internationals in 1998 before they defend the World Cup here the next year.

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notably Australia, whose ten Test matches and 33 one-day internationals against them dwarf England's tally of five and 12 respectively. Australia are due to tour Sri Lanka again for two Tests in August.

The TCCB could invite Sri Lanka to take part in a one-day triangular tournament with a team already scheduled for a full Test tour — such as Australia next year — except that it still looks down its nose at one-day cricket, as good an indication as any that it is living in the past.

Sri Lanka have for years wanted desperately to play England, but for how much longer? England are the ones who ought to be seeking the fixtures, in the hope that they can learn how to bat inventively, be reminded that rules are

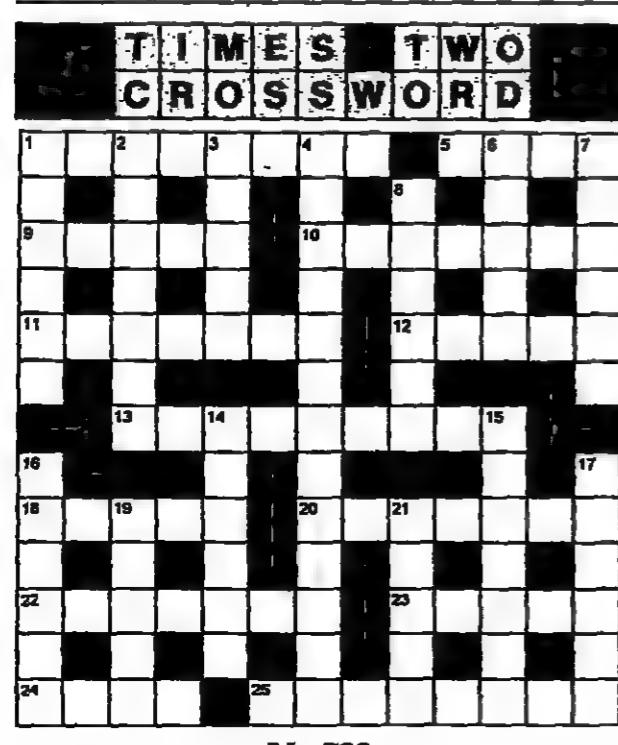
there to be broken, and rediscover their passion.

Meanwhile, the world moves on. Sri Lanka's next engagements are next month in two more places that do not feature prominently on the TCCB's map, but are hungry to see the World Cup winners — Singapore, for a three-way one-day tournament with India and Pakistan, and Sharjah.

By the time that Sri Lanka defend the World Cup, Arjuna Ranatunga, their captain, and Aravinda de Silva, their match-winner in the final on Sunday, may have retired. Sanath Jayasuriya may have faded from the scene. Perhaps it will take a shrewd country to sign them (though it is too late for this year) — or a television entrepreneur — to bring them over before then.



Tyson shows off the world title belt that he reclaimed from Bruno on Saturday at a press conference yesterday



No 733

ACROSS

- Come near (8)
- Gaffer; oyster spawn (4)
- Poke into (to test) (5)
- One born under the Bull (7)
- Floating mass; sort of lettuce (7)
- Touch of colour (5)
- Social services architect: sounds like drink (9)
- Bleeper (5)
- Personal possession (7)
- OT dry bones prophet (7)
- Unexpected extra (5)
- Meat paste (4)
- Regularity of form (8)

DOWN

- Young foreign helper (2,4)
- Adage (7)
- Grossly fat (5)
- In downright fashion (13)
- Song of triumph (5)
- Underground passage (6)
- Internally destroyed; very upset (slang) (6)
- Harmful fauna (6)
- Having died out (7)
- Maintenance (6)
- A superficial magazine (6)
- Where we galloped all three from (5)
- Photo, cuttings hook (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 732
 ACROSS: 1 Tuba, 3 Colossus, 9 Copse, 10 Deified, 11 Trinket, 12 Idly, 14 Remedy, 16 Bethel, 18 Afar, 19 Equable, 22 Agitate, 23 State, 24 Overture, 25 Asks
 DOWN: 1 Taciturn, 2 Baptism of fire, 4 Oddity, 5 Orifice, 6 Spill the beans, 7 Suds, 8 Meek, 13 Clueless, 15 Dormant, 17 Redem, 20 USSR, 21 Sago

Venables relishes signs of Gascoigne's revival

BY KEVIN McCARRA

THE exasperating notion that Scottish football is labouring to bring about its own downfall is growing. A move to Rangers from Lazio last summer brought Paul Gascoigne not only to a place of refuge, after so many years of rumour, injury and surgery, but also to a season of rehabilitation. It now seems possible that he could reward his benefactors with cruelty.

The hounding of the England midfield player may leave him in ideal condition to overwhelm Scotland at Wembley on June 15 in the European championship finals. Although far too diplomatic to taunt anyone with the irony of the situation, Terry Venables, in Glasgow for the Old Firm match on Sunday, was frank in his appreciation of Gascoigne's progress.

The England coach saw Rangers draw 1-1 with Celtic. Gascoigne set up the opening goal. Although far too diplomatic to taunt anyone with the irony of the situation, Terry Venables was optimistic when met with those inquiries.

"I think he's not far from getting it all back," he said. "The strength and acceleration with the ball are there and the strutting arrogance that makes the deepest impression.

His uncomplicated craving to play the game has only been increased by the four years in which injuries confined him to sporadic appearances. "He

chases the ball and makes as many of those runs forwards and backwards. He needs to be thinking properly in the game."

It is only mild concern about exertion leaving him red in the face. Gascoigne's propensity to get hot under the collar causes greater worries. Venables remains conscious of the player's capacity for indiscretion.

"On his game, as he is now, he gives you too much to

contemplate leaving him out, unless he plays less well or his behaviour becomes damaging," Venables said. "Then, you have to make a cold decision." While others might dwell on offences committed, however, it is Gascoigne's innocence as a footballer that makes the deepest impression.

His uncomplicated craving to play the game has only been increased by the four years in which injuries confined him to sporadic appearances. "He

Ginola and Cantona excluded by France

BY DAVID MADDOCK AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

Chinese evacuate islanders ahead of new war games

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA and Taiwan evacuated residents from small offshore islands where Peking was due to start new land, sea and air exercises yesterday.

The war games are designed to influence Saturday's first direct presidential elections in Taiwan, as American warships sail off the country's eastern coast. But officials in Taipei said they thought fog and heavy seas had delayed the manoeuvres.

A state radio official on Pingtan island, a command post for the Chinese war games, said Peking had ordered people on dozens of small islands in the northern section of the Taiwan Strait to evacuate to the mainland, a few miles away.

The order was issued by the radio station yesterday at the request of the People's Liberation Army and Government, though no time was given for the start of the exercises, which are the third in a series.

Local people said many military planes were flying over Pingtan and a large



PLA tanks, troops and vehicles were seen in the streets of Pingtan, off Fujian province, and the nearest mainland island to Taiwan, officials said.

Fishermen were forced to stop operations in the area, sending fish prices soaring. Taiwan's financial markets, which have been buffeted by the crisis, were calm.

Local people said many military planes were flying over Pingtan and a large

number of naval vessels were in port. Residents along the eastern coastline said city airports had been taken over and thousands of troops were being moved in for the exercises, which are the closest ever to be held to Taiwanese territory.

The Taiwan authorities have also evacuated outlying islets. A Reuter photographer on the Taiwan-controlled islet of Tung Chu, ten miles from China's exercise zone, watched as an air-raid drill sent all 87 remaining residents into shelter in near-silence. "All shops were immediately closed and streets are completely empty," Simon Kwong reported.

■ Kathmandu: At least a hundred Tibetans and members of Amnesty International-Nepal were arrested here during protests over human rights abuses in China, police and Amnesty said. (AFP)

Leading article, page 17

Ageing tanks growl defiance

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN HSIN-CHU
AND JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN TAIPEI

COOL reflection is in the nature of Lieutenant-General Gao Angsun.

Taiwan is being slowly squeezed by Peking's army of three million and some of its inhabitants are fleeing outlying islands to escape the latest war games, but the general, who resembles the tanks he put on show yesterday — middle-aged, powerful and with a growl in his voice — stands firm.

"Our tanks are pretty old," he says at the 3rd Armoured Division's base at Hsin-chu, an hour's drive south of Taipei. "But so are theirs. We can be mobilised pretty quickly if we have to, but I do not think that will be for a long time. Are we ready for anything? Well, what is anything? Whatever it is, it will not be soon."

His tanks and self-propelled guns clanked through Hsin-chu's sticky red clay and, under a freezing rain, soldiers charged at "enemy"



Taiwanese troops carry a shell during an exercise in the north of the island yesterday involving 60 tanks

positions that flew the Communist flag. On the surrounding hills huge signs proclaimed "One heart, one mind, one country: resist the Communists". Signs like this appeared at one time on nearly every wall in Taiwan. But over the past ten years of little tension, they have become steadily less relevant. Of course, if action comes, it will not be in Hsin-chu's red hills and it will not be in exchanges of tank fire. It will be on beaches like the one on the northern tip of Taiwan where earlier in the day Nationalist soldiers impersonating the People's Liberation Army

stormed ashore to be repelled by Taiwanese defenders.

It would be on such a beach that Taiwan's final battle would be fought. The Chinese Army, if it goes that far, would have to be stopped there. Once it was inland, General Gao's tanks would not last long against what would be a landing force of 750,000 men, more than twice the size of Taiwan's entire army.

However, nobody thinks that that kind of struggle is imminent. Indeed, the tank brigade at Hsin-chu, General Gao said, is at readiness level five, the least "ready" on a scale of one to five.

History bequeaths a jumble of clues to sovereignty

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

IN THE run-up to Saturday's presidential election, the real issue for many Taiwanese is that although they are ethnically Chinese, politically they identify with the island.

For them the period since 1945, when Nationalist China resumed control of Taiwan after losing it to Japan in 1895 after the Sino-Japanese War, has no relevance. Fervent proponents of independence describe the Nationalist forces of Chiang Kai-shek, who ruled Taiwan after 1949, as a rabble defeated by the Communists.

China's claim of sovereignty is not ancient. Peking exercised various degrees of control over Taiwan, increasingly settled by Han who drove the non-Han peoples into the mountains until 1623, when it was ceded to the Dutch. They lost it to a Chinese pirate, Koxinga, in 1662. In 1683, the newly established Manchu dynasty regained the island. In 1887, Taiwan was incorporated as a fully fledged province until it was lost to Japan, in accordance with the Treaty of Shimoneski of 1895.

In Cairo in 1943, China's right to regain Taiwan was endorsed, and in 1945 Chiang's troops took control. They treated the island like a captured enemy stronghold, looting it. In 1947, they massacred thousands of indigenous Taiwanese who demonstrated against their "liberators".

The Chinese claim to Taiwan is not as venerable as the 700-year case it makes for Tibet, which in any case is rejected by most non-Chinese historians. Mr Han-hao, a Grand Justice of Taiwan's Supreme Court, observed yesterday that "length of claim to ownership of land is irrelevant unless there is a prior claim. The length of the period has nothing to do with its legitimacy, as long as the claim is made legally and peacefully. Surely neither the Dutch nor Japan make such a prior claim. If Taiwan is not China's, whose is it?"

This will not please the independence movement, but then its argument is nationalistic and political, not legal.

Peking masses stick to everyday worries

BY JAMES PRINGLE

PEKING residents are more concerned about inflation, unemployment, official corruption and deteriorating law and order than about the crisis in the Taiwan Strait. The idea that war could break out seems almost unthinkable.

"I really have not considered a war at all," said one of two young professional women outside the Guiyu department store in central Peking. "There are enough other matters to concern us — like housing for young couples."

Many seem to agree with the Government's view that Taiwan is part of China, and that the US should not intervene. However, ordinary Chinese have little access to information outside the state-controlled media.

Chinese are more ready to talk to foreign journalists in public than in the years after the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989. Of more than 20 Chinese approached on a busy

main street yesterday, only one young couple said they had "no views, as the situation is not clear".

"This is a trial of strength between two states, China and the US," said a secretary, 25. "China has a secret weapon for dealing with these carriers," noted a 36-year-old clerk.

A man selling pirated CDs asked how many US aircraft carriers were involved and who supplied Taiwan with arms, then added: "But I can't keep up with that. All my energies are channelled into making a living."

Two 18-year-old schoolgirls said China had to act to prevent Taiwan declaring independence. "We discuss this a lot at school," one said.

A young woman researcher was less in line with party doctrine: "If there is a war with the US, the Americans would suffer more because they live in heaven. Chinese already live in hell on earth, so in a war what would we lose?"

*Spend time
arriving
at the decision,
not travelling
to the meeting*



Chiang: his forces seen as "rabble with no mandate"



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Riders of the storm pursue the ultimate thrill

Tucson, Arizona, the lightning capital of America, was the setting for the world's first convention of storm-chasers. They prefer to call themselves "severe weather interceptors", but "mudcats" might do as well. These are people who, at the first sign of deadly weather, will leap into a fast car and drive towards a tornado to photograph and study it, as well as revel in the dare.

Storm-chasing, provincial America's latest growth activity, will next month receive a boost with the release of a Steven Spielberg film called *Twister*. It features terrifying shots of real tornadoes, so destructive that those from the blustery parts of Britain will find hard to imagine.

Storms kill many people and cause millions of pounds of damage every year across the United States. The huge land mass creates unstoppable tempests. The storm season begins with tornadoes riding in from the Gulf of Mexico in mid-April, moves to thunder and lightning in the West during high summer, and concludes with Florida's autumnal hurricanes. At every stage, storm-chasers are there, whooping at the thrill.

Warren Faidley, the only professional storm-chaser in the world, at the wheel of his high-speed vehicle

■ Tornado-chasing is rural America's latest growth activity. At their first conference, Quentin Letts heard the hunters swap weather notes in Tucson

It was a mixed group that attended the conference here at the weekend: men and women, young and old, from computer buffs to farmers, photographers and retired meteorologists. The weather in Tucson was, to general contempt, dry and sunny, although Mel Walker, a whistling Alabamian, peered hopefully at a cloud formation on the horizon. He was one of about 70 enthusiasts who attended the conference to swap storm knowledge. The moisture comes up from the Gulf, a haze develops and you can smell the ocean, he said, claiming a 70 per cent accuracy on storm forecasts.

The storms have various names — dust-devils, landspouts, funnels, twisters and tornados — and rotate at speeds of up to 300mph. At the height of the season in Kansas and Oklahoma, scores of chase vehicles speed across the flatlands, scouring the horizon for the big storm — and the perfect photograph. They do not often get speeding tickets. "Police are usually too busy speeding in the other direction," came the wry explanation.

Phil Henry, an engineer from Las Vegas, showed off his custom-built, cloud-stalker tornado vehicle, complete with satellite television link-ups, storm-tracking gadgetry, and a big sticker on the back saying "Severe Weather Intercepter". The vehicle's pilot is Henry's wife, Kathy, an amateur racing driver. She said: "I just get real kick out of chasing storms. When we stop in those small country towns we are always surrounded by people asking us questions and advice."

Mr Faidley, a veteran of the Tucson thunderstorm fraternity, described the day loose-flying lightning darted around the ceiling of his front parlour during an electrical storm. Tucson attracts spectacular lightning, he said, because it has a high cloud base and is set in a natural arena of mountains, complete with its trademark, *High Chaparral*-style cacti.

"Weather was always part of my life," said Mr Faidley, who helped Spielberg on *Twister* and shot the film's publicity poster which features a tornado. As a boy, Mr Faidley would bicycle into the middle of dust-devils. "They

are real hot inside and the air is orange. Neat." He was once knocked off his feet by a bolt of lightning and is a veteran of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Kent Wood, a veteran of the Tucson thunderstorm fraternity, described the day loose-flying lightning darted around the ceiling of his front parlour during an electrical storm. Tucson attracts spectacular lightning, he said, because it has a high cloud base and is set in a natural arena of mountains, complete with its trademark, *High Chaparral*-style cacti.

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news bulletins around the world that August. No storm-chaser has died, yet, although a man who recently dashed after a twister

have fuelled calls in Texas for "yahoos" storm-chasing to be banned, and a Kansas sheriff last season threatened to run them out of town.

From a cooler, Mr Faidley produced a grapefruit-sized ball of ice which hit his car during an hailstorm in Texas, smashing the windscreens and a side window. He gunned the engine for all it was worth and drove out of the storm at 100mph. A van behind him was unable to escape, and was wrecked by the hail. His vehicle still bears dents on its roof from that encounter, but its paintwork also features — like the scores notched on the fuselage of a Battle of Britain

fighter jet — many red dots, one for each tornado that he has witnessed.

The Spielberg film will attract even larger crowds of meteorological rubbernecks to the Midwest this storm season. There are also plans to hold next year's storm-chaser conference at a bigger venue such as Las Vegas.

For all their high-tech gear, some basic truths remain. "What is the most valuable part of your equipment?" a boffinish woman asked Mr Faidley as he stood by his gleaming vehicle. The professional storm-interceptor paused, sucked his gums, and replied: "The accelerator."



A tornado photographed near Caldwell, Kansas, in March 1990. The violent, rotating column of air is characterised by a funnel-shaped cloud

Governors of key states pitch for job as Dole running-mate

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Senate cloakroom has undoubtedly witnessed several intriguing events over the years and it was here last week that John Engler, the Governor of Michigan, probably made his most obvious pitch for the Vice-Presidency of the United States.

During an opportune meeting with Bob Dole, outside the cloakroom with its pristine towels and sparkling taps, Mr Engler said the Republican Governors' Association would sanction the Kansas senator for the presidential nomination the next day and as the group's chairman he also would make a personal endorsement.

His backing has certainly helped Mr Dole in the run-up to the Michigan primary today but the significance of Mr Engler's endorsement goes far beyond the ballot box tonight in which polls suggest an easy victory for the 72-year-old Senate majority leader.

The industrial heartland of

Michigan, and the other Great Lake states of Ohio, Wisconsin and Illinois — each of which is holding a primary today — are the effective battleground for the 1996 election and critical to any Dole triumph over President Clinton. Both Mr Dole and the White House predict that the Oval Office will be won or lost in the Midwest and California.

For the first time in decades, each of the most important Midwest states, and California, has a Republican governor, and Governors Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin, George Voinovich of Ohio,

Jim Edgar of Illinois and, of course, Mr Engler are all desperate to prove how useful they will be for Mr Dole in November.

Each hopes to gain second place on his presidential ticket as a prize. Assuming that General Colin Powell, Mr Dole's first choice for a Republican Vice-President, continues to reject the position, any one of them has a good chance. None has been shy in offering his unguarded loyalty to Mr Dole and has said he would not turn down the opportunity to run as Vice-President.

"I was the first governor to come out for him," said Mr Voinovich. "I will work day and night to elect Bob Dole, and so will every Republican in Michigan," said Mr Engler. For his part, Mr Thompson said: "I hope he'll pick a Republican governor if it's not Colin Powell. It will strengthen the ticket."

More than Mr Edgar, political commentators in America

consider these three to be the main contenders for the number two slot. They are conservative, anti-abortion Catholics who would strengthen the nominees among those on the right of the party and may even provide him a means of rapprochement with Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator whose rhetoric had driven the party in early primaries.

Mr Engler is undoubtedly the favourite of the Christian Right, which had delivered Mr Dole the South Carolina primary and effectively ended the embarrassing progress of Mr Buchanan.

There are reservations within the Dole camp, however. On being greeted with news of his impending endorsement, Mr Dole told Mr Engler that he wished the announcement could have been made in Michigan rather than Washington. The senator's aides are unhappy also that the support had come so late in the day.



Gingrich: trying to steer clear of controversy

Gingrich learns to button lip

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

INCREDIBLE as it would once have seemed, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, has been silenced.

A year ago he was leading a "revolution" that had President Clinton reeling. His *Contract with America* was being hailed as a work of genius. He dominated the headlines.

Today Mr Gingrich maintains a low profile and shies from all controversy. He has ended the day-to-day running of the House to Richard Armitage, his deputy. He readily admits to being the "junior partner" now. Robert Dole is the party's presidential nominee and promises "to do everything I can to help him".

Mr Dole's priority is now winning the presidency. Mr Gingrich is maintaining Republican control of the House. The same tactics are required for both goals, and the two men must cast off the "extremist" tag.

Next month the United Nations' *Inhumane Weapons Convention* will reconvene in

America shifts ground towards landmine ban

BY MICHAEL BINTON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH and American officials may this week take the first step towards banning landmines, which kill and maim about 20,000 civilians in the Third World every year.

The emotive issue will be on the agenda at a routine meeting in Washington of senior officials from the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Defence with their American counterparts.

Last June Britain and America launched an initiative in Budapest to stop mines falling into "inappropriate" hands, and Britain has insisted that all mines must self-destruct after a reasonable time. Since 1991, Britain has spent £17 million clearing some of the 100 million mines scattered across former fighting zones in 62 countries. British Army experts are clearing mines in Bosnia and other countries, but an estimated two million new mines are sown a year.

Defence consultants will this week publish a critical assessment arguing that, with NATO now primarily engaged in peacekeeping, mines have no role in post-Cold War military planning. The report, to be published by the Centre for Defence Studies, calls mines a "particularly odious" type of weapon.

Last week the British Medical Association passed a resolution demanding a ban on the use of mines.

■ Berlin: Soon after the Berlin Wall went up, the Soviet military chief in Berlin suggested that the East Germans lay mines to secure the border further, according to testimony yesterday at the manslaughter trial of six former Communist leaders. (AP)

Colombia captives 'in good health'

Copenhagen: Three Europeans, including Philip Halten, a Briton, and a Colombian abducted by Colombian guerrillas last month are in good health, according to F.L. Smith, their Danish employer. It was the first information on the engineers' condition since they were abducted in early February. (AP)

Disco fire kills 30

Manila: Fire broke out at a packed disco in the Manila suburb of Quezon City and radio reports said more than 30 people were feared dead and many injured. The fire caused a stampede. (Reuters)

Tactics agreed

Tunis: Among measures announced by Jimmy Carter, the former US President, five African states will step up tactics against intimidators who have made 1.7 million Rwandans afraid to go home. (AP)

Democracy date

Freetown: Sierra Leone's outgoing military junta decreed a March 31 deadline for the transition to democratic rule after Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was elected President on Friday. (AP)

Koala cull plan

Sydney: South Australia's parks service is deciding whether to shoot or move 2,000 of the 5,000 koalas on Kangaroo Island to avoid a potentially disastrous population explosion. (AP)

Fast food takes off without frying licence

New York The McDonald's hamburger company is going into the airline catering business (Quentin Letts writes). A Swiss charter plane will be painted in the McDonald's colours, some cabin staff will wear McDonald's outfits, and the inflight food, instead of the customary cold collation, will be Big Macs and chicken McNuggets.

The service will be introduced on April 1, which initially led some people to suspect an April Fool trick, but the company and its Swiss airline collaborator, Crossair, confirmed yesterday that

the project is no hoax. It will serve charter routes from Geneva and Zurich to popular European holiday resorts.

In line with the McDonald's practice of producing products with "Mc", the 16-seater MD83 jet will be known officially as the McPlane. Its fuselage will be painted to depict the McDonald's golden arches, and the cabin seats will be upholstered in bright red leather. McPlane's interior will seek to create the atmosphere of a McDonald's high street outlet, complete with "Have a nice day" greetings from the cockpit.

Reto Meister, a Crossair spokesman, said yesterday: "The whole appearance of the plane will be of a McDonald's restaurant." He did not know if the cabin drinks trolley would be replaced by a milkshake dispenser. Chips, or "fries" in the McDonald's argot, have been ruled out because of the danger of using a deep-fat fryer in turbulent conditions. Crossair is a subsidiary of Swissair, and 80 per cent of its normal passengers are businessmen. Mr Meister said the service would be limited, initially, to one holiday charter route.

"She was determined to make it to her daughter's wedding."

It took all of my nursing skill to get her there."

For some cancer patients a family event can become enormously important. It can become, literally, the reason to keep going. Helping someone at this stage takes a very special kind of nurse. Of course, Marie Curie Nurses have all the necessary training — but only experience can prepare them for the kinds of challenges they face every day, and every night.

Last year Marie Curie Nurses cared for more than one third of all seriously ill cancer patients in their homes — providing more than one million hours of nursing care.

We also have eleven Hospice Centres across the UK, the world renowned Marie Curie Research Institute and education and training in cancer care for doctors, nurses and paramedics.

No charge is ever made to our patients, or their families. We depend heavily on voluntary contributions.

Please help us to continue this vital work.



Marie Curie Cancer Care, the UK's leading charity for cancer patients, is launching a new campaign to raise money for its services. The campaign, which will run for six months, aims to encourage people to make a donation of £10 or more. The money will be used to support Marie Curie Nurses, who provide care and support to cancer patients in their homes, and to help to build new Hospice Centres across the UK. The campaign will also highlight the importance of early detection and treatment of cancer, and encourage people to take steps to reduce their risk of developing the disease. The campaign will be launched on 19 March, and will run until 19 September. The campaign will be supported by a range of celebrities, including Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ian McKellen, and Dame Helen Mirren. The campaign will also feature a series of events and activities, including a 'Marie Curie Day' on 19 March, and a 'Marie Curie Week' from 19 to 25 March. The campaign will also feature a series of events and activities, including a 'Marie Curie Day' on 19 March, and a 'Marie Curie Week' from 19 to 25 March.

Boost for Yeltsin simplifies race to stop Communists

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin is fast emerging as the only candidate with a hope of beating the Communists in the presidential elections in June.

According to the latest opinion polls, the Russian leader, dismissed only months ago as too unpopular to be re-elected and too ill to fight a campaign, has improved his standing from fifth to second place.

A poll by the Russian Centre for Public Opinion showed the President with 15 per cent support, up from 11 per cent last month and 5 per cent in January, when he trailed the pack. A Ramir agency poll also placed the Kremlin leader second, with 17 per cent.

Although Gennadi Zyuganov, whose Communist Party secured a third of the seats in last December's parliamentary elections, maintained his lead with 25 per

cent, his support had climbed by only one point in a month of heavy campaigning.

It is still too early to draw any firm conclusions from the results, but it does seem to confirm that the race, which is crowded with scores of presidential hopefuls, is becoming a two-man contest.

Under Russia's electoral laws, any candidate with the signatures of a million supporters can enter the presidential contest, due to take place on June 16. If none of the hopefuls secures more than 50 per cent of the votes, the top two challengers fight a run-off a month later.

The surge of support for President Yeltsin is due partly to his improved image. Where only a few months ago he was regarded as ailing, drunken and indecisive, he suddenly seems revitalised and his lat-

est public appearances have been energetic, robust and sober. The Russian leader has also benefited from clear political and financial support from the West.

Most important, President Yeltsin has outdistanced other presidential candidates, who so far have been unable to put together a credible "third force" to challenge the two front-runners.

In the absence of any alternative, many voters are coming to the conclusion that, while he may not be the ideal man to lead Russia, the Kremlin leader is the only figure capable of keeping the Communists out of power.

□ **Bomb defused:** A bomb found in a bus in west Moscow on Sunday was defused only 15 minutes before it was timed to go off, the security service said yesterday. (AFP)



Sarajevo suburb burns

An Italian peace implementation force soldier stands guard outside a burnt-out house in Grbavica, a Serb-held suburb of Sarajevo due to come under joint Muslim-Croat control today. Burning houses and blocks of flats sent plumes of smoke billowing into the sky above the area as embittered departing Serbs set their homes alight. The neighbour

hood is the last of five Sarajevo districts being transferred to the Muslim-Croat Federation under the terms of the Dayton peace agreement. In Geneva, Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, yesterday began talks with Balkan leaders aimed at ensuring full compliance with the terms of the Dayton peace

agreement. In Geneva, Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, yesterday began talks with Balkan leaders aimed at ensuring full compliance with the terms of the Dayton peace

Stockholm: Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime Minister, resigned yesterday to make way for Goran Persson, who saved Sweden from financial chaos by taking a knife to its vaunted welfare system (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Persson, the former Finance Minister, was elected leader of the ruling Social Democratic Party at the weekend and formally takes over from Mr Carlsson on Friday. He told a special party congress that Sweden faced more years of austerity to restore economic health, create jobs and shape a new "Swedish model".

Defying a congress that wanted a swift return to Sweden's former huge welfare state, he said the country must bring its budget back into balance.

To appease leftwingers, who staged demonstrations outside the meeting, he promised to begin closing nuclear power plants within two years. But his promise has divided the labour movement.

Islamic suspects arrested

Israeli and Palestinian authorities yesterday arrested more suspected Islamic extremists (Ross Dunn writes).

One, a man aged 22, said he had planned to blow himself up in Tel Aviv last Wednesday — the day of the anti-terrorism summit in Egypt.

□ **Algeria:** A car bomb blast killed at least five people and injured ten others in Tizi-Ouzou, a town southeast of the capital. (AFP)

Tramp killed

Paris: Youths poured petrol over a tramp here and burned him to death. Police said they were seeking four youths seen running from the scene on Rue Lafayette in the early hours of Monday. (AFP)

Denktas better

Ankara: Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader who suffered a heart attack two weeks ago and was flown to Ankara for treatment, was discharged from hospital and returned to Cyprus. (AFP)

Benin votes

Colonou: Turnout was more than 70 per cent by early afternoon in Benin's run-off presidential election. The former Marxist military leader, Mathieu Kerekou, is poised to defeat President Soglo. (AFP)

Nobel poet dies

Athens: Odysseus Elytis, 85, who inspired Greeks with his emotive poetry and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1979, died a recluse at his home in Athens. (Reuters)

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Cricketing win halts Tamil war for a day

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL glory, millions of rupees, new cars and free holidays await Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lankan cricket captain, who returned home with his team yesterday to an island drunk on victory.

For a day, at least, cricket even stopped the war. Liquor shops ran dry, bars bulged and members of the armed forces tuned to television and radio while keeping an ear cocked for the Tamil Tigers. The rebels presumably also listened to the game and the day passed quietly.

Some senior army officers left the war zone in the north to travel to Colombo to watch the game on television and off-duty soldiers were glued to televisions and radios.

The Tigers returned to battle yesterday by killing 18 soldiers on the northern Jaffna peninsula with a landmine. Although torn over who to support, most of the island's Tamils clearly backed the national side, which was made up almost entirely of Sinhalese players.

The Tamil minority did not join in street celebrations after the victory, conveying their sense of political, social and even sporting isolation. Their area of Colombo, the capital, were quiet while the rest of the city went wild.

President Kumaratunga Bandaranaike congratulated the team. "Although we are a tiny country we have proved to be world beaters and you have brought honour and fame to our country," she said.

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French reveal face of single currency



French reveal face of single currency

The French mint put the first euros into circulation yesterday in the shape of a coin, right, with a face value of 75 euros and 500 francs (Ben Macintyre writes). They are unlikely to turn up as loose change, since they are made of 24-carat gold and cost 5,000 francs (£650) each. The coin is a collectors' item as euro production is not due to start until the end of the century.

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Regulation counts more than taxation

Government is not just about money, says Anatole Kaletsky

Once upon a time, the cry of every bar-room bore was: "There ought to be a law against it." That changed during the Thatcher-Reagan decade. Suddenly calls for government action were treated with contempt — even in the bar-room. The neo-liberal fashion for "getting the government off the back of the people" gave all forms of regulation a bad name. President Reagan used to mock the traditional Democrats' panic reaction to every political problem as "don't just stand there — do something". He promised that his Administration would have a different slogan: "Don't just do something — stand there."

At the same time, the single-minded materialism of the Thatcher-Reagan era created an illusion that was very helpful to the dismantling of big government. Both voters and politicians were convinced that the power of the State could be defined by one simple measure: how much money it spent and taxed. A government that spent a lot was oppressive, as well as unpleasant for high-rate taxpayers. A government that cut taxes was *ipso facto* giving its citizens more freedom.

Yet whether it is in the overdrive clamour for a total ban on private handguns, or in the far more dubious proposals to introduce a new technology for parents to censor children's television, we are reminded daily that the government's role in society goes far beyond the raising of taxes and spending of public money. And despite all the efforts of neo-liberals to discredit government action, the citizenry (at least in Britain) clings stubbornly to the belief that governments are basically benign.

The question of whether the State is fundamentally benevolent or necessarily corrupt is emerging as the great political divide of the 1990s. Tony Blair's new Labour socialists and Bill Clinton's Democrats, along with most Social and Christian Democrats in Europe, believe in government. They may want government to be cheaper, "smarter" or more efficient, but they welcome politically administered collective action and see the State as a force for good. Their new style "socialism", as Mr Blair calls it, acknowledges that the market must dominate in the economic sphere of production and consumption, but insists on reserving a large domain for social action. In this social sphere, politics and government, not money and markets, must hold sway.

Tories and American Republicans, by contrast, believe that politics is inherently cynical. Governments and public bodies are always being captured by self-serving politicians, bureaucrats and vested interests. Only competition and the market can keep these corrupting forces at bay. A society that settles everything through the market, and leaves as little as possible to government, will be not only richer but also fairer, they maintain.

Anyone who believes that there is no real difference between the Tories and new Labour — or between Bill Clinton and Bob Dole — should remember these sharply contrasting attitudes to the role of the State. There is scope for enormous differences in the way the country is governed — and in the power and influence of government — even if Labour raises exactly the same taxes as the Conservatives and spends not a penny more.

It would cost the Government virtually nothing to ban guns or to limit violence in broadcasting or to change the schools curriculum or to join a European single currency or to devolve the government of Scotland or to arrange a cut in water prices or to give more (or fewer) rights to trade unions or to put Britain on permanent Summer Time. These and a myriad other social, environmental and judicial measures would not have the slightest effect on taxation or public borrowing, yet they could change life in Britain far more than a few pence on income tax.

To deny this is to succumb to the materialist illusion of the 1980s — the idea that the only things that matter in life are the ones that carry a big price tag. Yet this seems to be exactly what many politicians and commentators believe, mesmerised as they are by meaningless statistics such as the ratio of government spending to gross domestic product.

The truth is that the degree of government intrusion in society bears little relation to such figures. The British Government spends 42 per cent of GDP, compared with 33 per cent in America, 38 per cent in Japan and 20 per cent in Hong Kong. But in Britain over-governed compared with them?

In Hong Kong, 60 per cent of the population lives in publicly-owned housing. In Japan, the Government has wielded influence over commercial decisions that Nye Bevan could only have dreamt of. In America the regulation of utilities, insurance, environmental pollution, consumer protection and workplace health and safety gives the government sway over one quarter of the economy, on top of the part it directly controls. The European Commission spends less than 2 per cent of Europe's GDP, yet its power over our lives now rivals that of national governments.

At a recent Ditchley seminar on regulation, American businesspeople complained that they are far more oppressed by regulators than by tax collectors. But their hopes of deregulation sounded forlorn. In an era when governments have reached the limits of their ability to raise taxes, regulation will increasingly turn to regulation to influence our lives. And why shouldn't they? Governments are elected to do things. President Reagan's joke notwithstanding. And spending money is not the only way to get things done.



"You do that again and I'll QUIT..."

The voices of children

We owe our five-year-olds respect — but we do not always give it to them

Yes, of course the media must leave Dunblane. If we do not go voluntarily, there is a case for enforcement. Yet, unlike many commentators, from Matthew Parris to Alan Clark, I cannot regret the intensity of the coverage. It genuinely reflected a genuine grief.

I am glad our political leaders represented us in decent unity; glad that the Queen visited (and, incidentally, that the Princess of Wales had the wisdom not to). I am grateful to theologians who struggled publicly towards a response, and also that our need to understand was at least partly met by responsible accounts of Thomas Hamilton. It was not disrespectful either for voices to be raised against the cult of handguns, notably the voice of the former Chief Constable John Stalker, who says baldly that even within the police force, senior officers automatically mistrust any man who volunteers to be armed. Above all, I am glad that the sober, kindly, courageous voices of Dunblane itself have been heard.

But as the nation turns decently away, we have to consider what we can do with our own shock and tears. The shock went deep. The Sunday morning silence gave a glimpse of a Britain we often forget: shops and stations fell quiet, and driving through a Suffolk town, I pulled into the side of the road for 9.30am, but found there was no need. Two lines of cars stood motionless during that minute, engines off, while the traffic lights went green, then red, then green again.

Ambushed by tears, we have tried for days to make sense of the shock. At the heart of it lies the age of the children who were deliberately killed. Unlike incidental victims of war or terrorism, they were chosen to one twisted mind, they had significance. We have to confront that awful fact, because to the normal mind also their age and where they died has significance. So all I wish to do today is to speak, with joy as well as grief, of the particular qualities of a five-year-old child.

To those who have little to do with children, the distinctions of age may be blurred, but those closer to them know that a child of four or five, starting school, is a profoundly important and beautiful creature. The word "innocent" is overused, but the true, blazing wonder of their condition is something that only parents and teachers know. Nowhere else do you

find that combination of clear vision, considerable reasoning ability and utter inexperience. It is an age that learns fast, absorbs deeply, and questions life with a serious awakening moral sense. One of the hardest questions that teachers had to deal with last Thursday from the smallest schoolchildren was, "What had they done wrong? Why was he angry?"

A child rising five stands on the threshold of the wider society: emerging from dependent infancy to take his or her place as an individual in the world. Around the fourth birthday, inquisitive babyhood ends with the realisation that the world is wide and time is long, that not all news is good, that bad things happen and sometimes it is your fault. Age and death become real. For my own first child, one catalyst was the hurricane of 1987, demolishing an ancient beech tree and the end of our house. It brought home the uncertainties of the world and the need for courage; it introduced mortality. "I will be dead", he said, "before the tree can grow up again so beautiful." Our reassurances died on our lips, because he was quite right. Comfort lay only in planning more trees for the "hundred-times" children" to enjoy.

A child of five who has been kindly treated, not brutalised, may be naughty and wilful, but nonetheless displays a quixotic kindness which shames the adult world. Witness the handwritten messages and toys which brought the police chief at Dunblane to tears; witness the way that five-year-olds tug your hand as you walk through a city, asking impossible questions like "Why is that man lying in a cardboard box? Well, why can't we take him home to our house?"

If they trail clouds of glory, so do those who teach them. The first terms at school are not a cold matter of acquiring the three Rs for the sake of a career. They are spent in learning trust and co-operation and the good behaviour which springs from mutual respect. Reception teachers

like Gwenneth Mayor at Dunblane are unsung heroines and heroes. Year after year, they take each motley group of small, fidgety, hopeful individuals and turn them into a class, a group which makes things together and is proud of them. On the wall of their classroom will be a paper tree with leaves each named for a child; or a train, with every carriage named. This is where they learn about society and sharing and justice. Like millions of mothers, I have spent long mornings as a volunteer helper in a reception class and know not only the frustrations and stickinesses of the job but the marvel of it. Those were the late 1980s, when governmental insult fell heavily on the teaching profession, and mad obsessive curriculum directives heaped the staffroom table.

Whenever some new bureaucratic burden fell on him, the head would say "Focus on the children" and dive into the nearest classroom for sheer refreshment. It never failed.

This marvellous moment in life, poised between thoughtless babyhood and the dilemmas that come later, was the moment when the Dunblane children were lost. It is an excellent instant which made us weep as if for a loss of our own. And as we turn respectfully away, that instant should bring hope. Everybody has said that parents hugged their own children tighter last week; well, we should now embrace other people's too. Because of what they are and the simple and eternal values they embody, we owe them respect.

We do not always give it. This very week, primary education is once more a source of ill-tempered doctrinaire wrangling, polarised between those who despise the idea of "child-centred" teaching and want them sitting in rows and taught by rote, 40 at a time and rows, and those who see their needs differently and argue their corner with equal venom. Sir Malcolm Thornton, chairman of the

Commons Select Committee on Education and husband of a primary head, has been moved to express anger at "simplistic and offensive" attacks on teachers by Chris Woodhead of Ofsted; Mr Woodhead himself launches this week an "MOT test" for teachers, marking them on a seven-point scale with a view to naming incompetents and "rooting them out". There is nothing wrong with improving standards, but the tone and means sometimes used are more suited to a factory inspectorate than to a delicate relationship with flowering human souls.

Again, there has been harsh ecclesiastical criticism of a survey which showed that most parents prefer not to talk of "teaching" right and wrong to children, but of "guiding" them. Yet anybody who deals with young children knows that guiding is what you do: treat them kindly and fairly and help them to pass it on. Small children are not savages unless we make them so: I have known six-year-olds to reject violent films or games spontaneously because they — not we — found them distasteful.

Yet we jostle and ignore them, for all their trust and goodwill. Walk down the road with a four-year-old and commuters will all but step on her; look at the way our cities are planned and you find cars, prestige, consumerism and profit given infinitely more thought than the question of where children can play. We slide ever further into the pursuit of self-fulfilment through serial divorce, and make political capital by attacking the poorest mothers. The professional world derides what America calls the "mommy track" and sniggers at the very idea of a daddy track.

In her novel *The Hearts and Lives of Men*, Fay Weldon deals with parents who believe that their child is dead. She reflects on the unnatural fate of outliving your child, but says "if we are to give proper meaning and honour to their death, and our grief, we must live thereafter properly and well, without wranglings or rancour".

Those lines have gone through my head for days. I hope that Dunblane will now be mentioned less, but I hope too that the shock has sunk so deep that the past week's feelings will, for years to come, colour a thousand debates and decisions, public and private, political and business, in every trade from armaments to entertainment. For the children's sake.

Doubles all round for Ilie Nastase's tennis partners. The 50-year-old former Wimbledon player is leading rivals by a wide margin in an election for the mayoralty of Bucharest, his home town, which he promises to rebuild as the "Paris of the East".

Foot down

CARNAL NEWS: Philip Kerr, who in January was awarded the *Literary Review's Bad Sex Prize* for the toe-curling descriptions of sex in his novel *Grid Iron*, has fallen victim to crime. Thieves have stolen the Bad Sex statuette, a foot on a pedestal, which he spurned in horror and left at the magazine's offices. "It was a very handsome and rather large foot," comments the editor, Auberon Waugh. "It's a great loss — it must have cost at least £200."

Too hasty?

THOSE POOR serfs at the Evening Standard in London, still reeling from the staff purges instituted since Max Hastings became Editor at the start of this year, fear relations could become yet more feudal. For he could soon be the possessor of an ancient Sussex barony, and calling himself Baron Hastings of Hastings.

The title is to be auctioned next week for an estimated £25,000-£30,000, but Hastings assures me that while it certainly appeals, the cost is beyond him. "All sorts of kind people have been pointing out this wonderful bargain to me," he says. "I suppose I can say that it is cheaper than buying a peerage from Mr Major. I would love someone to give it to me for Christmass but I don't think I'm rich enough to do it on my own."

The author is a visiting fellow at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Time for a world lottery

Simon Broadbent suggests a new way to finance the UN

The United Nations is running out of money. Some members fail to pay their contributions; several dispute what their contributions should be. The immediate consequence is that the countries which provide troops for peacekeeping (some of them poor ones) are paid late or not at all. Before long the supply of such troops will dry up. It is time to ask whether a UN lottery could save the day.

The sums involved are surprisingly small. The UN's regular budget is \$1.2 billion a year — half that of the Metropolitan Police — and peacekeeping costs a further \$3.5 billion. In total this is about 0.025 per cent of world income — scarcely a significant rate of international taxation when compared with national taxes of 20-40 per cent, or with other international taxes, such as the European Union's 1.2 per cent.

These costs are shared among member countries by a formula of byzantine complexity, which is supposed to reflect their capacity to pay. Historically poorer countries are given a large discount. All but 24 countries get further discount on peacekeeping costs at the expense of four of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Many countries pay as little as one US cent to the UN each year — a lot less than some spend on their New York missions. The richest pay more than \$7 a head, and a few micro-states even more. Several countries' contributions have not risen in line with their growing prosperity. Singapore and Israel, for example, pay about \$1 a head, despite higher income per head than Ireland and New Zealand, which pay \$3 a head. Other countries pay heavily for past claims of economic strength by their communist rulers.

The United States' share is much less than Europe's: both pay about \$5 a head. Yet Americans have a vastly inflated idea of the burden they bear. That is one reason why the American Congress refuses to authorise the funds which it is committed by treaty to provide; instead it seeks a reduction in its already modest contribution.

Recently the EU has put forward proposals to revise the scale of contributions to reflect current capacity to pay, but America's political climate and bickering elsewhere do not augur well.

Are there any other options? Voluntary contributions have been suggested. So has a levy on international air travel; but it is hard to see 185 ministries of finance signing up for that. Improbable as these approaches may be, it could be a combination of the two might just offer a solution: UN lottery.

An international lottery, similar to national lotteries but run for the UN, would give the UN resources without undermining national tax revenues; it would be voluntary, and it could get America on a humiliating hook by removing the annual wrangle over funds from Congress.

Lotteries raise over \$60 billion a year worldwide. The UK's National Lottery has been a runaway fundraising success. A UN lottery would have far greater reach, would be able to offer much larger or more numerous prizes than national lotteries, and could raise all the funds needed at little cost to each participant. Their potential number in rich countries alone would be over 400 million.

Operating a lottery in both very rich and very poor countries might sound impossible. One approach would be to franchise separate lotteries in different states. But this would sacrifice the advantages of scale. A truly international lottery might take place once or twice a year, selling relatively large denomination tickets and offering prizes of \$1 million and upwards. The odds against winning would be in thousands rather than millions. Tickets could, however, be subdivided into units which might vary from country to country and offer additional low-value instant prizes. Full tickets could be bought by sufficiently rich individuals and by syndicates.

Of course member countries would have to co-operate by allowing the lottery to function within their borders. In America it would need the acquiescence of individual states. To provide an incentive for this co-operation, the revenue raised in each country could be credited, partly or wholly, against the nation's assessed contributions. In the case of poor countries, there could be an upper limit on the amount of money taken out of the country, without ruling out the possibility of a profit through a big win.

If a country had moral or practical objections to the lottery, it could fall back on simply paying its assessed contribution. And these contributions might fall as the lottery began to generate a surplus.

Some may object that it would be undignified for the UN's lofty purpose to be pursued through a lottery. But the UN's finances are a lottery at present, and it is scarcely dignified to see its members wrangling over what are, for nearly all of them, trivial sums. Far better to get down to an honest negotiation which gives the UN the resources it needs.

Rag trade

THE REGROUPED Sex Pistols are hankering after the very best memories from their past. The middle-aged songsters are planning to recommit their fashion designer of old, Vivienne Westwood, to dress them for their reappearance on stage.

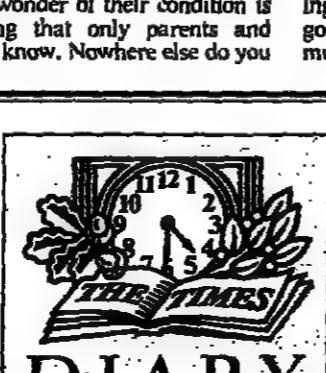
In the group's heyday, West-

wood ran a shop called Sex in London's King's Road. She dreamt up a Silver Jubilee T-shirt in 1977 which sported the Queen wearing a safety pin through her nose. And she stepped out with the Pistols' manager, Malcolm McLaren.

Nowadays, Vivienne is still considered risqué. But her clothes are not exactly for the "punk" market. "The idea of Vivienne Westwood designing the band's clothes is as perverse as the idea of the Sex Pistols reforming," explains my colleague, The Times fashion editor Iain R. Webb. "Her design has moved on far beyond punk into traditional clothes relying on traditional English design. She's designing for the country set, not for the urban outcasts."

Some urbanites would surely bat at her prices, too. But the Pistols' enthusiasm is undimmed. "The look would not be an attempt to get back to punk — it would definitely be Nineties. In any case, they are no longer gangly youths, they're all put on bit of weight now." Haven't we all?

• The incoming president of the Oxford Union, who will take over next term, is starting his presi-



diary with a ticklish debate. The motion is "This House enjoys pornography". Lord Longford will oppose the motion and Marina Baker, Playboy's Playmate of the Year 1987, will propose it. To illustrate her argument she will be giving a slide show which is eagerly awaited by some students.

Can I come in?
A PEACE protester on the run from prison for four months has tried to hand himself in to the authorities and been refused — because he doesn't have the correct paperwork.

Roger Franklin was sentenced to 28 days in Gloucester jail for refusing to pay £600 tax on his savings, in protest at government spending on nuclear weapons.

He finally decided to hand him-

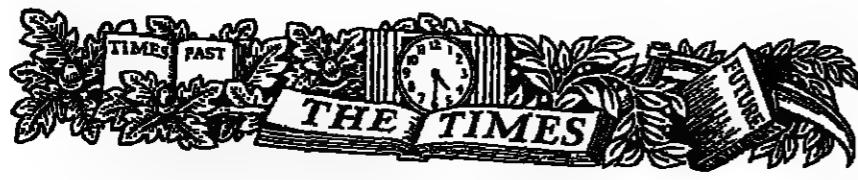
self in the other day, but was turned away. "We have to see the actual warrant," says one of the jailers. "Prisoners have to be brought in by an officer of the court," he says. Franklin plans to negotiate his incarceration. "I am not in a great hurry, but I would like to get it over with, so perhaps I will write to the court," he says. He explains that he evaded his captors for so long by refusing to answer the door to bailiffs. On other occasions he was at pottery classes.

Shawl thing
WILL HER famous blonde bouffant be swathed in the shawl that goes with the *shawl kameez*? Baroness Thatcher is to visit Pakistan at the end of the week, and those who admire the Iron Lady's sturdy suits are wondering whether, like the Princess of Wales, she will concede to Pakistani cultural convention and don the flowing garments so graciously worn by Jemima, wife of Imran Khan.

Lady Thatcher will be attending an Asian leadership seminar, but her office proves sketchy on details. However, there are great hopes that she might take tea with Jemima, whose father Sir James Goldsmith is a staunch ally of the Baroness.

OLDROYD'S SAFETY PIN WORKS
"Great news: the Sex Pistols are back together"

P.H.S



THE TAIWAN TRUTH

Chinese arrogance against American interest

China's intimidation of Taiwan breaches the Law of the Sea, violates three separate Chinese agreements with the United States to pursue its "one China" policy of reunification by peaceful means alone and amounts, under the American Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, to "a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area". Irrespective of Taiwan's status, China's claim that this is an internal Chinese matter is dangerous nonsense and Boutros Boutros Ghali, by parroting it, demonstrates his unfitness for a second term as UN Secretary-General.

The superficial ground for China's claim is that Taiwan, which is not in law an independent state, itself subscribes officially to the goal of reunification. That by no means justifies China's partial blockade of the island in a deliberate attempt to damage its thriving economy, let alone its blatant effort to interfere in Taiwan's first truly democratic presidential election this Saturday.

Militarily, China has so far followed the precepts of the two grand strategists still revered in Peking: Mao Tse-tung and Sun-tzu, the 4th-century BC commander whose tactics were successfully used by the People's Liberation Army against both Japanese and Nationalist forces. Sun-tzu was an ardent proponent of psychological warfare to achieve political ends without military losses. But this time China's leaders, as paranoid about Taiwan's enthusiastic discovery of democratic politics as they are about Hong Kong's modest political reforms, have totally misjudged their target.

The most dangerous phase will come when the election results are counted and China finds that far from undermining the popularity of President Lee Teng-hui, its bullying has, as seems likely, enhanced the majority by which he wins a second term. In terms of international diplomacy, China has scored another own goal by drawing attention to the contrast between its own domestic repression and Taiwan's freedoms.

For nearly half a century, Taiwan has had all the attributes of statehood — a Government in effective control of its territory which conducts an independent, if prudent, foreign

policy. Now, it will have more friends. Meanwhile China has given Asian and Western governments, not to mention the people of Hong Kong, further proof that it cannot be relied upon, even in its own enlightened self-interest, to respect either international law or agreements to which it has voluntarily bound itself.

The risk is that China, whose "war party" has been humiliated in the middle of its own political succession battle, will seek symbolic satisfaction by seizing one of the tiny islands just off the Chinese coast held by the Taiwan Government. It did so in 1955, taking the Tachen islands, north of Taiwan. Alternatively, China could illegally declare the Taiwan Strait closed and blockade Taiwan itself, crippling its economy by depriving it of vital oil and food imports and cutting its exports.

China's Asian neighbours, whose security would be directly damaged by any disruption to freedom of navigation in the region's critical sea-lanes, have the strongest reasons to speak out. Their near-silence puts America again on the map as reluctant but necessary policeman. Initially hesitant, Washington is now playing its hand well, deploying the largest naval force seen in Asia since the Vietnam War. It is well positioned to keep the Taiwan Strait open; it should not hesitate to do so.

Better still, before China makes any further moves President Clinton could bring strategic clarity to the long-held American doctrine of "strategic ambiguity" about Taiwan. The Taiwan Relations Act commits the US to help Taiwan defend itself; it needs better missile defences, and it should have them now. The Act describes "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including boycotts or embargoes" as a matter of "grave concern to the United States". Mr Clinton should endorse Winston Lord's statement about what "grave concern" means: such behaviour should be construed as a direct attack on US "national interests". China is mistaken in assuming that its actions are risk-free. Misled by American ambiguity, it made that mistake once before: it led to the Korean War.

CHIP IN THE BOX

Can technology shield young viewers from television gore?

After several decades in which film and television drama-makers have leaptfrogged each other in the levels of violence they have portrayed, the public is saying "Enough". In America and Britain, a new consensus is emerging. Violence on television and in films is degrading. But is the "V-chip" the answer to the gore that so many so detest?

Last month in America, Congress passed legislation compelling all TV manufacturers to install these chips in new sets. Virginia Bottomley, National Heritage Secretary, is considering following suit. Since the chip costs only 60p to install, the obligation is not onerous. Once in place, the chip recognises an electronic call sign attached to programmes with high levels of violence or explicit sex. If parents wish, they can then scramble all such programmes.

This sounds like the perfect solution to the problem of children watching unsuitable fare. It seems to deal with the difficulty of monitoring what children see on their own television sets, and works even when the parents are out. Best of all, it imposes a blanket ban, relieving parents of the need to argue their case against each individual programme of which they disapprove.

On closer examination, however, the V-chip has flaws. First, it will take at least a generation to have much effect. The average life of a television is 20 years, and the oldest sets usually find their way to children's bedrooms. Secondly, as experience with satellite blocking systems has already shown, children tend to be more technologically adept than their parents and are ingenious at unscrambling transmissions.

Meanwhile, the regulatory body monitoring the programmes will have a mammoth task. In America, for every 700 films released each year, there are more than 700,000 hours of television on an average cable system. Europe is moving in that direction. How would censors decide whether production of *Titus Andronicus* was more violent than an episode of *Cracker*, or a documentary on Rwanda?

Even supposing practical problems could be overcome, the V-chip might suffer from the law of unintended consequences. Those children most in need of protection would be those least likely to receive it. Well-balanced children could find their viewing restricted to anodyne quiz shows, while delinquents watched anything they liked. Broadcasters, sheltering behind the V-chip, might then be tempted to put out ever more shocking programmes on the ground that only adults need watch them.

There lies the rub. Violence corrupts not just children, but parents too. The constant fare of shooting, murder, brawls and rape that is pumped out on prime-time TV these days makes violence look like a part of everyday life. If you believe the broadcasters, the only glamorous profession to be in, apart from crime, is one of the emergency services. This is not "real life" — it is a thousand miles away from the life most people lead. Film-makers and broadcasters should look to their own consciences and broaden their imagination. Blood is not the only component of the human body, nor testosterone the only driving force. Humans possess also a brain and a heart.

VICTORY MOST SWEET

But when will we next see the Sri Lankans in England?

Cricket-lovers in this country, ill-served by their own tattered side, are entitled to rejoice today in Sri Lanka's World Cup victory. If their energetic triumph over Australia was the sweeter for its overturning of pre-tournament predictions, it was also profoundly romantic. Contriving somehow to be both boyish and gentlemanly, Arjuna Ranatunga's men played a skilled and smiling game — with a strength of resolve and a frankness of shot-making that no adversary was able to match.

Yet cricket-lovers in this country have good reason also to be hopping mad: not with Michael Atherton's vanquished journeymen of course, for they did their best, poor souls; nor even with Ray Illingworth, although they will not be mulling to buy him pints at the Slog and Duck in Pudsey. Popular anger should be directed, instead, at the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) for its conceit, its purblindness and its attitude to Sri Lankan cricket.

The TCCB runs Test cricket in this country, deciding which sides come here to play, when they come and how often. Since their elevation to full Test match status — in February 1982, when Keith Fletcher's team played a side captained by Bandula Warnapura in Colombo — Sri Lanka has toured England only three times, and for a mere single Test on each occasion. The last time was in 1991, six years ago, and the next

will not be until 1998, when the deft Sri Lankans have been pencilled in for yet another single Test match.

The cricket authorities in Colombo have pleased often with the TCCB: let us have a full tour, allow us at least a three-Test series, play us more often than you do. But the men at Lord's have responded always with withering disdain: Sri Lanka, they have concluded, are just not good enough for an extended tour of the land where cricket was invented. In the meantime, they have enjoyed proper tours of India, Pakistan, New Zealand and Australia, "growing up" each time as cricketers and putting their signature clearly on the modern game.

Sri Lanka is now the one-day game's world champion, and Lord's had better set aside its disdain for both Sri Lanka and the one-day game. It should not be beyond the abilities of even the TCCB to find a way of accommodating the island cricketers somewhere in the English calendar.

Can they not be invited to play here after — or during — next year's Ashes series? Can they not be offered more Tests in 1998? That is the year the South Africans tour: and what a dreary prospect they offer, when compared with the magical world champions. But let us not presume that Sri Lanka will jump at an invitation to tour England. The TCCB had better bone up on the Sinhalese (and Tamil) for "don't call us, we'll call you".

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Dunblane places a spotlight on media

From Professor Sir Miles Irving

Sir, Status Quo complain about withdrawal of national radio support from Radio 1 (report, March 1) but how many other entertainers have enjoyed such an untroubled run of support from the media?

Is it not time for a change? I personally find their blue denim has faded dramatically since their early hits in 1968. That was when our hearts were lighter and our hair darker.

Does it not make more sense for the Quo to target the likes of TV audiences on the Des O'Connor Show (I caught that recently I'm afraid) and leave the jocks at 1 FM to "large it" with their big beat dance music and Brit pop of the moment.

One wonders whether at any time the editors and owners of these papers, together with those responsible for the production of films and television, pause to think whether the ills of our society are related to their activities. The purveying of pornography, the attacks on order, the family, discipline and excellence, combined with the creation of a culture of tolerance to violence, could account for an environment which allowed a disordered man like Hamilton to thrive.

Whenever such suggestions are advanced rational discussion is impossible because of the control over the debate exerted by partisan media. In recent years the medical profession has moved into an era of "evidence-based" care where decisions about all aspects of practice are increasingly subject to independent systematic reviewing and scientific analysis of the published evidence.

The time has now surely come when the evidence on the effects upon society of the activities of the media should be so reviewed and, if shown to be harmful, used for moral if not legislative pressure on those responsible. We owe the children and parents of Dunblane nothing less.

Yours sincerely,

MILES IRVING
(Professor of Surgery,
University of Manchester,
Department of Surgery,
Clinical Sciences Building,
Hope Hospital,
Salford, Greater Manchester.
March 18)

Proposed memorial

From Miss Imogen Stubbs

Sir, Much has been written recently about a perception that National Lottery money is awarded with insufficient public input about its destination, with metropolitan bias depriving the regions and with the "good cause" concept inadequately represented.

A proposal: that the Heritage Memorial Fund, the Sports Council, the Arts Council and the Millennium Commission all forgo the funds they disburse from the lottery for one week.

Their grand total of that week's funds should be earmarked for a Dunblane project — possibly a young people's sports and cultural centre, or a children's hospital, or a holiday facility for needy or abused children — to memorialise the innocent victims of last week's unimaginable destruction in a positive and life-affirming way.

Yours faithfully,

IMOGEN STUBBS,
c/o ICM,
76 Oxford Street, W1.
March 17.

English syllabus

From The Head of English
at the Oratory School

Sir, The post-Dearing GCSE is indeed marginalising Shakespeare (Education, March 15). In most of the examining groups' English Literature syllabuses, Shakespeare has been relegated to coursework — he cannot or need not be studied for the actual exam.

This means that the pupils only have to produce one piece of written work on Shakespeare. There's no need to go on studying the play and getting to know it really well because it won't be in the exam.

There are further problems. The syllabuses approved by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority require six books to be studied (up from three or four previously), which will make it impossible to do them in detail from sheer lack of time.

They also insist on coursework assignments to test "appreciation of social and historical influences and cultural contexts" and so on. Absurdly pretentious tasks are suggested, such as "a consideration of the first-person narrative in pre-twentieth century literature" (Southern Examining Group syllabus). This would make a fascinating doctoral thesis, but as a 450-word essay by a 16-year-old, it would be so superficial as to be worthless.

The new English and English Literature GCSEs have abandoned rigour for superficiality dressed up in fashionable "lit crit" jargon.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW NASH,
Head of English,
The Oratory School,
Woodcote,
Reading, Berkshire.
March 15.

Tuning into the right age on Radio 1

From Mr Jim Whiteford

Sir, Status Quo complain about withdrawal of national radio support from Radio 1 (report, March 1) but how many other entertainers have enjoyed such an untroubled run of support from the media?

Is it not time for a change? I personally find their blue denim has faded dramatically since their early hits in 1968. That was when our hearts were lighter and our hair darker.

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One wonders whether at any time the editors and owners of these papers, together with those responsible for the production of films and television, pause to think whether the ills of our society are related to their activities.

The purveying of pornography, the attacks on order, the family, discipline and excellence, combined with the creation of a culture of tolerance to violence, could account for an environment which allowed a disordered man like Hamilton to thrive.

Here I have heard gems by

Nanci Griffith, Neil Young, Sinatra, Ella, Buddy Holly and the Beatles side by side with Sondehim — in short, a melodic pop music policy covering 40 years, and again excluding Status Quo.

It may be that those drumming guitar chords are now just too strident for the Nineties marketplace. Just as Radio 1 is having to rethink its own approach to survive after nearly three decades, the Quo may also have to change sound or direction — or both.

Yours etc.

JIM WHITEFORD,
56 Bathurst Drive, Ayr.
March 15.

From Mr Guy Napier

Sir, Your leading article ("Stay cool", March 11), which backed Radio 1's decision to effectively "blackball" certain popular songs, disregards the wishes of the majority.

Radio 1 is first and foremost one of a very small number of national radio stations and as such should, in my view, attempt to appeal to the widest possible audience. This audience must not be subjected to records which interpret anything but their own choice. That choice is neatly categorised through the Top 20 issued every week and this should form the focus of the station, rather than be ignored because it is regarded by a highly vocal minority as old-fashioned.

The fact that Radio 1 is one of only a few national stations means it has a significant influence on its audience. This influence should be used selectively and not, as it is currently, as a bludgeon. John Peel successfully provided this influence for a considerable period of time without in any way dictating to the general populace. There is nothing wrong with a winning formula, no matter how old.

Yours faithfully,

G. T. NAPIER,
62 Crifel Avenue, SW2.

March 15.

From Mr Anthony J. Morris

Sir, Radio 1 cannot play every new record that companies release. However, there can be no rule to predetermine that records by newer artists are more popular than new recordings by established artists. Who can tell what is popular until the public are given the opportunity of listening and judging for themselves?

Yours truly,

A. J. MORRIS,
Albany House,
Foyle Hill, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

March 15.

Implications of new sentencing laws

From Mr D. P. Marchessini

Sir, I would say to your correspondents today on the subject of the new sentencing laws proposed by the Home Secretary, that the purpose of sentencing laws is not to "rehabilitate" offenders, but to protect society from violent and dangerous men.

The second important point of sentencing laws is to deter offenders in the future. In this connection it is interesting to compare the sentencing laws with those within the United States which make a life sentence mandatory for anyone convicted of three felonies. Not surprisingly, the number of people committing three felonies fell very sharply after the legislation was passed.

It is also difficult to imagine anything more trivial than the often-made suggestion that the new laws will deter defendants from pleading guilty. Of course they will, but as long as they are convicted their pleas are quite irrelevant.

Finally, we are threatened with the prospect of "overcrowded prisons". The obvious answer to this is to build more prisons. This simple remedy does not, however, seem to command itself to our correspondents.

Yours faithfully,

D. P. MARCHESSINI,
Kingsbury House,
15/17 King Street, St James's, SW1.
March 12.

From the General Secretary of the Prison Governors Association

Sir, In the arguments between the Lord Chief Justice and the Home Secretary there appears to be only one area of agreement. This is that time served should be much closer to the sentence passed.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID RODDAN,
General Secretary,
Prison Governors Association,
409 Horseferry House,
Dean Ryle Street, SW1.

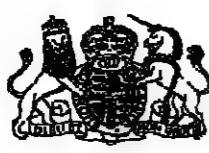
March 14.

From Lady Hillhouse, Chair, No Smoking Day 1996

Sir, The debate on the No Smoking Day report into children helping parents to stop smoking (Nigella Lawson, "No parental blackmail day", March 13; letters, March 14) clearly shows that the fears for their children's health was a major factor in their giving up.

Neither in the report (details, March 12) nor in the accompanying children's information sheet do we suggest that any form of parental blackmail should be used. No Smoking Day urges children to support, help and encourage their parents when they are stopping smoking and

stresses that blackmail and nagging



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 17: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Irish Regiment, today visited the Depot at Ballymena, the 4th Battalion at Enniskillen, the 1st and 8th Battalions at Armagh, Northern Ireland, and presented Shamrock.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 18: The Queen this evening attended a Reception to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Commonwealth Engineers' Council at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London SW1, and was received by the President, Institution of Civil Engineers (Professor Tony Ridley) and the Chairman, Commonwealth Engineers' Council (Dato' Ir Lee Yee Cheong).

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Prince of Wales will visit The Prince's Trust residential course at Pontin's Sand Bay Chalet Hotel, Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare at 11.15; and as President of The Prince's Trust Business Trust, will attend a gala concert at the Albert Hall at 7.40.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the English National Ballet, will attend a performance of *Alce in Wonderland* at the London Coliseum at 7.25.

The Princess Royal, President, the Rural Housing Trust, will open the trust's completed scheme at Gretton Close, Wymondham, at 10.00; as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will open renovated premises at the Rutland bureau, 56 High Street, Oakham, at 11.05; as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Care, will visit Leicestershire Care Centres, 58 London Road, Leicester, at 12.25; as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Towlers, Queens Road, Loughborough, at 2.10; as President of the Rural Housing Trust will visit the newly completed development at Crayshaw Close, Loughborough, at 3.40.

The Duchess of Gloucester will visit RAF Lossiemouth at 11.15.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the London Philharmonic, will attend the 100th anniversary of the Dvorak cello concerto at the Festival Hall at 7.10.

The Royal Academy of Engineering

Dr Brian Manley, CBE, FEng, Senior Vice-President of The Royal Academy of Engineering, presided at the 10th Lloyd's Lecture held last night at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London. Five presentations, entitled 'Atlantic Frontier Projects', were led by Mr John Browne, FEng, Group Chief Executive, British Petroleum Company plc.

Luncheons

HM Government
Sir Nicholas Bonnor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House in honour of Mr Mihai Popov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Moldova.

Corporation of London

To mark the visit to the City of London by the Lord Mayor of the City of Stockholm and the President of the City Council and Mrs Ingevik the Corporation of London were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, received the guests. Among those present were:

Mr and Mrs Axel Wernherholm, Mrs Sue Tompkin and Mr Stefan Tornberg, the Swedish Ambassador and Mrs Nilsson, Mr and Mrs Alan Clarke, Lord Porter of Luddenham, OM, and Lady Porter, Mr Alan Bellis, MP, Sir John and Lady Goss, Mr and Mrs Sir Jerry Wiggin, MP, and Lady Wiggin, Alderman, Common Councilmen and members of the Corporation of London and their guests.

Dinners

Plumbers' Company

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, received the guests at the annual dinner of the Plumbers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. The Master, Mr Jack Jeffery, presided, assisted by the Wardens. Lord Walton of Deneham was the principal speaker.

Harrow School

The Governors of Harrow School held a dinner at The Cavalry and Guards Club in honour of retiring colleagues: The Right Hon Lady Soames, Mr Roger Boissier, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild and Mr Nicolas Owen. General Sir John Akehurst, Chairman, presided.

Receptions

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister was the host at a reception held yesterday evening at 10 Downing Street to mark the Excellence of UK Science, Engineering and Technology.

Commonwealth Engineers' Council

The Queen attended the opening reception of the Commonwealth Engineers' Council 50th anniversary inaugural conference, *Engineering to Survive*, held last night at the Institution of Civil Engineers. She was welcomed by Dato' Ir Lee Yee Cheong, chairman of the council, Professor Tony Ridley, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mr Christopher Price, President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Dr Robert Hawley, Deputy President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and Professor John Bridgwater, Vice-President of the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

Meeting

Royal Overseas League
Professor David O'Keeffe, Director of the Centre for the Law of the European Union, University College London, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Overseas League held last night at Overseas House, St James's. Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

ROYAL SOCIETY - On 27 February, to Japan (nde Walker) and David, a son. William James.

CONROY - On March 12th, to Amanda (nde Whitwell) and Roy, a beautiful daughter; Ian Edward, a brother; Ian Emily.

EDMUND - On March 14th, at The Portland Hospital, London, to Linda, a daughter; Ian Edmund, a son; a daughter; and a son, Monty.

BOOTH-CLIBSON - On March 9th at The Portland Hospital to Charles and Linda (nde Clegg) (nee Oppenheim), best daughters Cicile and Evelyn, sisters to a son, Michael and a daughter, Linda.

CHAMBERS - On March 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Helen and Simon, a son, John, a brother; Ian Chambers, a daughter, and a son, Michael.

DAVIES - On March 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Margaret Josephine (nde Clegg), widow of Col. W.J. Davies, a brother; and a son, Michael.

SHAW - On March 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Ann (nde Hussey) and Andrew, a son, Michael and a daughter, and a son, Thomas.

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Red tape hits small companies hardest

By RODNEY HOBSON

MEETING government regulations costing small businesses more than 6 per cent of their total turnover, research from NatWest Bank indicates.

The bank's latest quarterly survey shows that the burden of red tape falls most heavily on the smallest companies. It says that the cost of compliance is on average more than 8 per cent of turnover for firms with sales of up to £50,000, but only 4 per cent for more than £1.5 million.

Government regulations and red tape have featured as one of the top five problems for small businesses over the past four years, with as many as one in seven citing compliance as the most important problem. Tax paperwork is by far the most common grouse. It accounts for 69 per cent of compliance costs. Income and corporation tax, PAYE and National Insurance contributions account for an average of 2.3 per cent of turnover. VAT accounts for 2 per cent.

Ian Peters, NatWest head of small business, says: "We believe this is the first time a large-scale business survey has asked questions about compliance issues. Our latest survey has shown a noticeable decline in the proportion of firms reporting increased sales over the past year. We now have evidence that despite recent government initiatives, small firms are still spending a significant amount of time complying with government regulations and tax paperwork."

Mr Peters fears that income tax self-assessment will create further demands on the time of the owners of small businesses.

Stephen Court
meets a man
who just held
on to his firm
during recession

Four years ago, James Mason's debts were double the turnover of his boatbuilding and repair business. More than £50,000 of work from the 1980s boom was never paid for. A month might pass without a customer in the ship-chandler at his boatyard by the River Brent in west London. "In 1991, trade stopped overnight. I had to lay off my staff. The only thing that kept me going was maintenance for people who moored boats alongside the wharf," he said. Today business is slowly picking up. Mr Mason, 56, now has three full-time employees and one part-time. Rent arrears have been rescheduled by British Waterways, his landlord, while £12,000 of other debts have been paid off. A sideline in supplying Calor Gas heating is bringing in extra cash.

Having ridden out the recession, Mr Mason is now making plans to return to his first love — boatbuilding. He began working life as a boilermaker, and became an instrument technician while in the Army. After a spell in Germany, he returned to England in 1978. His dream had always been to build boats. "There's such satisfaction in cutting and shaping a piece of flat steel into a boat," he says. In 1980, he left his job with an instrument



Still dreaming of boats: James Mason at his boatyard on the River Brent near Brentford

company, teamed up with a welder and rented a small wharf along the River Brent, near the junction of the Thames and Grand Union Canal.

Their first jobs were painting and engine repairs on cabin cruisers and narrow boats. "But with my background as a boilermaker, I could do jobs other yards could not — such as lengthening a boat by 15 feet with a new steel section," he said.

By 1987, Mr Mason had taken on a shipwright, for working on wooden boats, an engine-fitter and an office assistant. He had also moved to a larger boatyard along the River Brent. The new site, with several

covered workshops, meant that he could build boats up to 70ft long.

"We built new narrowboats, work boats, yachts, pontoons and two 50ft passenger ferries for use in Nigeria. The largest ocean-going vessel was a 50ft yacht." In 1988, he set up a ship chandler at the boatyard. About 20 per cent of the business came from overseas customers, particularly people from the West Indies buying second-hand parts. Turnover in 1989 was more than £150,000, with nine employees. By 1993, it had slumped to £15,000. Mr Mason reckons he was able to avoid bankruptcy

because he bought capital equipment, such as a £6,000 crane, with cash rather than bank lendings.

Although turnover for 1995 was up to £30,000, Mr Mason was hit by a new problem just before Christmas, when British Waterways terminated his lease. He has moved the chandler to a shop on Brentford High Street, and is temporarily using a warehouse — and a smaller wharf on the River Brent — until he finds a new permanent site where he hopes to fulfil his dream of building boats.

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Low intelligence irrelevant to duress claim

Regina v Bowen

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Mr Justice Buckley and Judge Hyam

Judgment March 5

In relation to a defence of duress, a low intelligence quotient, short of mental impairment or mental defectiveness, was not a relevant characteristic since it did not make those who had it less courageous or less able to withstand threats and pressure than an ordinary person.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Cecil Bowen against his conviction in August 1995 at Luton Crown Court Judge Marshall and a jury of five counts of obtaining services by deception for which he was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment concurrently on each count.

Miss Alison Levitt, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Peter Gribble for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the charges related to the purchase of electrical goods on credit.

In giving evidence, the appellant accepted that he had obtained the goods on credit and had made few payments. He asserted that throughout the period he had acted under duress.

He had been accosted by two men in a public house who had threatened him that if he and his family would be persecuted if he did not obtain goods for them. He was told that if he went to the

police his family would be attacked.

On appeal, it was submitted by Miss Levitt, that the judge misdirected the jury in relation to the issue of the summing up. Miss Levitt submitted that the judge should have included in his direction on duress that the sober person of reasonable firmness was someone who shared the appellant's characteristics.

The judge accepted that he had not used the expression but considered that he did not have to do so because in dealing with the objective test he had referred to the defendant's age and sex.

The classic statement of the law was to be found in *R v Gardner* (1982) 1 WLR 294. The direction to the jury involved two objective tests: (i) was the defendant impelled to act as he did because he feared death or serious physical injury; and (ii) if so, did the defendant respond as a sober person of reasonable firmness, sharing the characteristics of the defendant, would have done?

The formulation in *Graham* was approved by the House of Lords in *R v Howe* (1987) AC 417. But the question remained: what were the relevant characteristics of the accused to which the jury should have regard in considering the second objective test?

It seemed clear that age and sex were, and physical health or disability might be relevant characteristics. But beyond that it was not altogether easy to determine from the authorities what others might be relevant.

It was clear that age and sex were relevant to the nature of the provocation itself, would not necessarily be relevant in cases of duress. Thus homosexuality might be relevant to provocation if the provocative words or conduct were related to

that characteristic; it could not be relevant in duress, since there was no reason to think that homosexuals were less robust in resisting threats of the kind that were relevant in duress cases.

4 Characteristics due to self-imposed abuse, such as alcohol, drugs or glue-sniffing, could not be relevant.

5 Psychiatric evidence might be admissible to show that the accused was more pliable, vulnerable, timid or susceptible to threats than a normal person did not make it legitimate to invest the reasonable/ordinary person with such characteristics for the purpose of considering the objective test.

2 The defendant might be in a category of persons whom the jury might think less able to resist than people not within that category. Unusual examples were age, where a young person might be more pliable, or, as a mature one, possibly sceptical though many women would doubtless consider they had as much moral courage to resist pressure as men, pregnancy, where there was an added fear for the unborn child, serious physical disability, which might inhibit self-protection: recognised mental illness or psychiatric condition, such as post-traumatic stress disorder leading to learnt helplessness.

3 Characteristics which might be relevant in considering provocation, in relation to the admissibility of medical evidence of the nature set out in 5 above. If so, the judge should have to rule at that stage.

There might, however, be no medical evidence or it might have been introduced for some other purpose, for example, to challenge

the admissibility or weight of a confession.

In such a case, counsel had to raise the question before speech to the absence of the jury, so that the judge could rule whether the alleged characteristic was capable of being relevant. If he ruled that it was, then he had to leave it to the jury.

7 In the absence of some direction from the judge as to what characteristics were capable of being regarded as relevant, their Lordships thought the direction approved in *Graham* without more would not be as helpful as it might be, since the jury might be tempted, especially if there was evidence, as there was in this case, relating to suggestibility and vulnerability, to think that those were relevant. In most cases it was probably only the age and sex of the accused that was capable of being relevant. If so, the judge should, as he did in this case, confine the characteristics in question to those.

How were those principles to be applied in this case? Miss Levitt accepted, rightly in their Lordships' opinion, that the evidence that the appellant was abnormally suggestible and a vulnerable individual was irrelevant.

But she submitted that she for

himself, or might have had a low IQ of 60 was relevant, since it might inhibit his ability to seek the protection of the police. The Lordships did not agree. They did not see how low IQ, short of mental impairment or mental defectiveness, could be said to be a characteristic which made those who had it less courageous and less able to withstand threats and pressure.

The judge's direction had been sufficient. He directed the jury to consider the only two relevant characteristics, namely age and sex. It would not have assisted them, and might well have confused them, if he had added, without qualification, that the person of reasonable firmness was one who shared the characteristics of the appellant.

Accordingly, the appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Luton.

Judge: Mr Justice Evans-Lombe.

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Premiership top scorer shows his £10m price-tag still represents good value

Shearer hat-trick proves buyers were not fleeced

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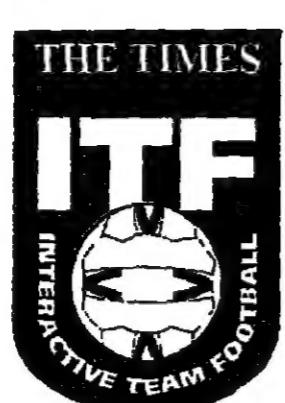
Hands up all Interactive Team Football (ITF) managers who are feeling smug at the moment. Of those, hands up who picked Alan Shearer as their main striker. No wonder you feel smug. Another hat-trick on Saturday, his fifth of the season to bring his tally to 34 goals, and another seven points in the bag. Shearer now has 86 points and is doing his ITF managers proud.

There are few who would argue with Shearer's goal-scoring talents, but the big question at the start of the season was whether he was worth £10 million. Jack Walker may have had a bottomless well of money with which to build his team but, in ITF, the limit is £35 million and it does not go very far once you have shelled out nearly a third of it for one player, the most expensive.

Shearer is one of a very rare breed in football — a betting certainty. There are few safer places to put your faith or your liver. Regardless of Blackburn's miserable start to the season, Shearer was scoring goals. He did it at home, he did it away, Blackburn may not have won the game, but Shearer hit the target. In ITF, that was all that mattered, provided, of course, that you had not picked Ray Harford as your manager.

When it comes to strikers, you have to speculate to accumulate; cheap goalscorers are as rare as hen's teeth. Compared with Shearer, Robbie Fowler looks a positive bargain at £8 million, and, while Shearer may have been ahead in the goal count, Fowler has been leading the way in the ITF points rankings. Just as in the FA Carling Premiership, the race for the honours has been whittled down to just three possible contenders, and, while Newcastle United may be on the verge of their first title under Kevin Keegan, Ferdinand, their top scorer, is still 16 points behind Blackburn and Liverpool's finest in ITF.

For the most part, the strik-



ers have been earning their corn. They may have cost a lot, but they are living up to their price-tags. Sheringham has notched up 71 points for his £6 million. Yorke has made 66 points for his £3 million. Collymore has got the hang of Liverpool and amassed 53 points for his £7.5 million. All in all, things are going according to plan.

Of course, there is always the exception that proves the rule. The thought of Shearer and Sutton in partnership at Blackburn raised the pulse rate of many an ITF manager. £7 million for Sutton seemed reasonable at the time. Since then, he has scored just seven points, one for each million.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the Premiership.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £5000 prize.

With ITF, not only are you putting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, but also you are matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Brian Borrows, of Coventry City, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £6 million on Teddy Sheringham — but will he do better than Shearer?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With Kevin Keegan still in the lead, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

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ers have been earning their corn. They may have cost a lot, but they are living up to their price-tags. Sheringham has notched up 71 points for his £6 million. Yorke has made 66 points for his £3 million. Collymore has got the hang of Liverpool and amassed 53 points for his £7.5 million. All in all, things are going according to plan.

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THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF			
IN	Player	Club	Value
31303	J Newcome	Sheff Wed	£2.5m
40008	S Howe	Nottingham Forest	£0.75m
50306	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	£1.0m
OUT	Player	Club	Value
42004	R Shearer	Bolton	£1.5m

All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.



Shearer's fifth hat-trick of the season brought his goal tally to 34 and his score in ITF to an impressive 86 points

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper	2pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Score goal	2pts
Scored goal	3pts	All players	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Appearance	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	1pt
Scored goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player	1pt	Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Scored goal	2pts

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper	1pt	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scored own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631.

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the player's five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 8pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 8pm on Sunday until 8pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 8am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would only cost you £35 million) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player In	Club	Player Out	Club

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	pts	FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING
1	Kevin's Kickers	(K James)	594	
2	Jones Boys Six	(M Jones)	580	
3	Gohills Gods 65	(Mr B Gohill)	567	
4	Smart And Stubs	(K Booth)	542	
5	Jones Boys Four	(L Jones)	538	
6	Layton Lions	(Mr R Layton)	527	
7	Langton Longshots	(J Ward)	526	
8	Kissups Five	(E Kirby)	526	
9	Stevies Lions 6	(S Brewer)	525	
10	Sharon's Buds	(Mr D Connolly)	525	
11	Fair Feck Flapster	(C Woodward)	525	
12	Apollo 2	(S Lazaridis)	525	
13	Teddy Five	(Mr B Barré)	524	
14	Phynco And Smither	(K Booth)	523	
15	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	521	
16	Burnell United	(P Banham)	520	
17	Nigels Right Foot	(Mr D Patel)	520	
18	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K Patel)	520	
19	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr P Johnson)	520	
20	Jessicas Darlinga 4	(Mr A Nedison)	520	
21	Percey Progress	(M Persich)	520	
22	Ninvana FC	(Mr J Donovon)	520	
23	Nobby One	(A Brown)	520	
24	Estuary	(P Giles)	518	
25	Dwaynes Dribblers	(A Philcox)	518	
26	County Pines A	(J Hunt)	518	
27	Stevies Lions 5	(S Brewer)	516	
28	Turners Enmers	(P Turner)	514	
29	The Likely Lads	(G Poddar)	514	
30	Judimetime	(A Kent)	514	
31	Tony's All Stars	(A Boyland)	513	
32	Reasins Supers	(P Sutton)	512	
33	Purple Sunflowers	(N Rickard)	510	
34	Aldrie	(Mr A Ford)	510	
35	Nobby Nat	(A Brown)	508	
36	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	508	
37	Purcell Rangers	(F Macdonald Purcell)	508	
38	Turners Enmers 2	(P Turner)	507	
39	Jesmond 1860	(S Murray)	507	
40	The Wae One Too	(A Nelson)	507	
41	Stevies Lions 1	(S Brewer)		

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL			
Code	Name	Team	Wk On
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00 +2 -5
10102	B Minniss	Blackburn Rovers	1.00 0 -1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00 +3 +30
10203	A Coton	Manchester United	2.50 0 0
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50 -2 -24
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00 0 0
10303	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	1.00 0 0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50 +2 +44
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25 0 0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00 -4 -3
10502	M Beeney	Leeds United	0.75 0 -9
10601	P Smicer	Newcastle United	3.00 0 0
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00 0 0
10603	S Hislop	Newcastle United	3.00 0 +4
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50 -5 +10
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00 0 0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50 0 -7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00 0 0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00 -1 -17
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50 0 -7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75 -8 -19
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50 0 -38
11001	B Grobelaar	Southampton	1.50 0 0
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75 -8 -28
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50 0 +8
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00 -4 -7
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00 +5 +26
11202	V Bartman	Arsenal	0.50 0 0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50 0 -41
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50 +5 -8
11401	L Mikkoski	West Ham United	2.50 0 -8
11402	R Sealey	West Ham United	0.50 0 -6
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50 -3 -1
11502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75 0 0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50 -3 -32
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75 0 0
11603	J Filan	Coventry City	1.50 0 -35
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50 0 0
11703	E Immel	Manchester City	2.00 -2 -28
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50 +2 +30
11803	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50 0 0
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00 0 +3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75 -1 -22
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50 +5 -68
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50 0 0



Borrows has one ambition for his ITF team: to stay ahead of the side picked by Steve Ogrizovic in the PFA league

Borrows in debt to Villa

I DID not really have much faith in my Interactive Team Football (ITF) selection — I called it Quango United because some of the lads here call a load of rubbish "a load of quango". Still, it is nice to know that my team is doing reasonably well in the PFA league. I am 25th at the moment and mine is the third-best team at my club, Coventry City: but provided I am ahead of Steve Ogrizovic, I do not really care where Quango United are placed.

Even though I included two Aston Villa players in my side, I did not really think that Villa would do that well this season. They just missed relegation last year and have had a lot of new signings, so I was expecting them to take time to settle; instead, they have done well. Villa, though, play five at the back with three central defenders and two full backs, so they are very solid in defence. That has paid off for me because I have got Mark Bosnich in goal and he has been earning points every week.

I started out by looking for goalscorers. I knew that Teddy Sheringham was good for around 20 goals a season, so he was an easy choice. So far, he has been my top points-earner and, as he also takes penalties for Tottenham, I must be guaranteed a few more.

I thought that Kevin Gallen, at Queens Park Rangers, would take over the Les

Ferdinand role after Les went to Newcastle, but he has not played as much as I would have liked and he certainly has not scored as many goals as I wanted.

In defence, I went for two Everton players in Earl Barrett and Dave Watson. Under Joe Royle, Everton have had a good defensive record, but my plan backfired because Barrett has been injured and has made only four points for the team. Another low return on the investment has been Ian Nolan, of

Sheffield Wednesday. I picked him in the hope that he might score a couple of goals: so far, he has only cost me points.

The midfield was picked with goals in mind. Roy Keane, Mark Draper and David Platt can all score goals and Andy Impey creates a lot. Queens Park Rangers have not been having a good time but Impey is still a very good player. He is always there supplying the crosses but has not been supplying Gallen, so that was another of my plans that did not work out.

English football is based around the flat back four; the idea of three at the back and a sweeper has always been the continental way of playing. So, it is odd that, just at the time when more teams in England are adopting the European style, a lot of the European clubs are playing with four at the back. I am not quite sure whether that means that we have finally jumped on the bandwagon, or whether the continental teams know something we do not. Either way, when we have played five across the back at Coventry, it has been a nightmare.

All in all, Quango United is doing all right. Sheringham is getting the goals for me although I would like another striker to partner him. I would not mind having Robbie Fowler. He is an incredible talent, for someone of his age and never seems to show any sign of nerves.

BORROWS'S TEAM

Goalkeeper:	M Bosnich	(Aston Villa)	52.5m
Full backs:	E Barner	(Everton)	52.5m
L Hall	(Sheff Wed)	51.5m	
R Hall	(Southampton)	52.5m	
Centre backs:	D Watson	(Everton)	52.5m
A Impey	(OFPR)	51.5m	
Midfielders:	R Keane	(Man Utd)	52.5m
M Draper	(Aston Villa)	52.5m	
D Platt	(Arsenal)	54.5m	
K Gallen	(OFPR)	54.5m	
Strikers:	E Sheringham	(Tottenham)	53m
Manager:	R Atkinson	(Coventry)	51m

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